

1865

CENTENNIAL YEAR

1965

*A History of*

MT. HOPE  
EVANGELICAL & REFORMED CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



ROWAN COUNTY

ROUTE 7, SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2014

1865

CENTENNIAL YEAR

1965

*A History of*

MT. HOPE

EVANGELICAL & REFORMED CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ROWAN COUNTY

ROUTE 7, SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA

**THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO ALL MEMBERS OF MT.  
HOPE CHURCH, PAST AND PRESENT, WHO HAVE  
HAD A PART IN HER HISTORY.**

*This page honors our oldest members  
Of Mt. Hope Church.*



**Mr. George Pless, 94, and Mrs. George Pless, 91, are the oldest members of Mt. Hope Church.**

**Mr. Pless joined Mt. Hope Church in 1882 and Mrs. Pless joined in 1897.**



*This page honors our older members  
Of Mt. Hope Church*



Mrs. J. C. Linker, Left, was confirmed in Mt. Hope Church on April 14, 1901.

Mrs. S. A. Funderburk, Right, was confirmed in Mt. Hope Church on April 12, 1896.

Other older members of Mt. Hope not present for photo are:

Mr. Willie Casper, Mrs. G. M. Shuping, Mrs. Arthur Rymer

## **THE DENOMINATIONAL NAMES**

To the reader who may be unfamiliar with the change of names of the denomination as told in this history, the following explanation is made:

The first name of the church of the pioneer German settlers was "German Reformed Church," so named for being the followers of Ulrich Zwingli, the forefather of the Reformed Churches of Europe in the days of the Reformation.

In 1869 the Church voted to drop the word "German" from the official name, and the denomination was then known as "The Reformed Church in the United States."

In 1934 the Evangelical Synod of North America merged with the Reformed Church of the United States, and the new name "Evangelical And Reformed Church" was accepted.

In 1957 The Evangelical And Reformed Church merged with the Congregational Christian Church, and the new name "United Church Of Christ" was adopted.



### CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Standing: Left to Right: Mr. Ivan Funderburk, Chairman; Mr. Hubert Davis, Mrs. Edgar Holt, Mr. Edgar Holt, Rev. Carl Kreps.

Seated: Left to right: Mrs. Russell Eagle, Mrs. Hubert Davis, Mrs. Jack Eagle, Mrs. Carl Kreps, Mrs. Ralph Horton.

On the table is the old "Deeds Box" of Mr. Jacob Lingle.



# 135 YEARS OF HISTORY OF A CHURCH

## ST PAUL'S—HOLSHOUSER'S CHURCH, 1830-1865 MT. HOPE CHURCH, 1865-1965

With the coming of a centennial celebration planned by the members of Mt. Hope Church, one of the first things found necessary to do for such a celebration, was the writing of the history of the church as thoroughly as possible. With that desire in mind, the first task of the centennial committee was the preparation of this booklet. Many long hours of time and research and preparation have gone into the making of this story. Your centennial committee proudly presents the following story of our church from its beginnings to the present day. May this record, therefore, inspire each of us today as we recall and appreciate the heritage that is ours of our church for a continuous 135 years.

### THE BEGINNINGS

The story of our church properly begins with the recalling of the fact that pioneer German ancestors first settled a large part of Rowan County, and out of their lives and devotion came our first churches. For those of the Reformed faith, the first church or "Mother" church in Rowan County was Grace "Lowerstone" Church. From one of its members came the birth of our church, first known as St. Paul's or "Holshouser's" church because Andrew Holshouser, Jr., a member of Lower Stone Church, provided land that another church might be built. The church was commonly referred to, therefore, as "Holshouser's Church." Mr. Holshouser provided five acres of land, near the Old Concord Road, and South of Salisbury. The land was deeded on August 14, 1832 (Deed Book 31, p.628). This Mr. Holshouser was the son of Andrew Holshouser, Sr., who in 1774 was a trustee who received land given to Lowerstone Church. From the deed we notice next that he gave the land with the apparent understanding that any denomination could worship in the church to be built thereupon. We quote now from the deed the following: "This indenture made the fourteenth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two between Andrew Holshouser . . . and Enoch E. Phillips and Michael L. Brown, trustees for the Presbyterians and Lutheran church in common and their successors in office." Mr. Holshouser sold the land to these trustees for \$25.00.

Perhaps we should explain at this point the use of the term, "Presbyterian," in the deed. It seems that the Presbyterian church shared in the early beginnings of this church, as well as Reformed and Lutheran. From the history written of St. Paul's Lutheran church, they state that around 1865, "The Presbyterians, who shared also in the property, gave their right over to the Lutherans. This gave the Lutherans possession of two thirds majority, therefore it appears, entitling them to the property. The Reforms then decided to build a church now known as Mt. Hope about three miles from the Holshouser church."

Thus, it may not be completely clear what is meant by the word "Presbyterian" in the deed. The confusion comes over the fact that the actual

Presbyterian Church shared in the property, as well as the possibility that the word also represented the Reformed side as well, for the word "Presbyterian" was used to describe the German Reformed Church quite often in the early days, for the following reasons:

- (1) Our churches were sometimes referred to as "Calvinistic," because the first followers were influenced by John Calvin of Reformation times. This occurred because of the early death of Ulrich Zwingli, the forefather of the Reformed Church. After his death, Zwingli's followers were closely allied with John Calvin's followers.
- (2) Our church followed the "Presbyterial" form of church government, which caused many English speaking peoples to think we were Presbyterians.
- (3) Occasionally, Dr. J. C. Leonard, a historian of the Reformed Church, states the German word "Reformite" was rendered into Presbyterian" in the English language.

At any rate, apparently all three churches shared in some way, in the beginning of the old "Holshouser Church." Eventually it became essentially Lutheran and Reformed groups and was called a "union church." However, several groups did use the church occasionally in accordance with the wishes of Mr. Holshouser, who gave the land. For example, we read in the history of St. Paul's Lutheran Church the following: "The Lutherans, Reformed, and Presbyterians held services regularly once a month, each having regular pastors, while the Methodists, and some say the Baptists held services occasionally, just as some minister of their denomination was passing through or when they were able to secure one to hold services. The Methodists often held protracted meetings which lasted for two weeks or more."

As to the organizing date of the congregation, tradition says that an organization took place on March 30, 1830. As to who organized the church and who the first members were is shrouded today somewhat in mystery, because of lack of records. It is sometimes erroneously ascribed to Rev. John Lantz as organizing pastor, but he organized the Reformed side as late as 1850, which we will take note of later in the story. Rev. Lantz, a Reformed pastor, began his studies at the Theological Seminary at York, Pennsylvania in 1835. He was ordained by the N. C. Classis of the Reformed Church in 1838. He had earlier been confirmed at Lower Stone Church on May 30, 1829, of which he was a member. He then accepted a call to preach at Lower Stone Church and other churches in Rowan County from 1838 to 1853. Thus, it is doubtful if he could have organized St. Paul's in 1830. The only other Reformed pastors in the area at that time were Rev. George Boger, who served as the only Reformed preacher in Rowan County during the 1820's. He retired in 1829, to be followed by Rev. Daniel B. Lerch, who died suddenly in 1834. There is no known record that they helped organize anything at the St. Paul's-Holshouser Church. Rev. Boger was known to have preached in homes of Reformed people in the county, but his personal diary is now lost, and we do not know if he had any such services in this area. Rev. William Houck was born near China Grove in our area, and may have had opportunity to preach in this area, but again we have no sure proof. The Minutes

of Synod of the Lutheran Church states of him that he appeared at their Synod meeting for licensure in 1812. The minutes, reporting of that year in pages 5 and 6, "a petition from South Carolina signed by 18 Reformed and 13 Lutherans was read, the petitioners prayed that this Synod should ordain William Houck, a Reformed expectant of the ministry, to be a Reformed or German Presbyterian minister, but this Synod, after due consideration concluded that they could not consistently do anything in it." Mr. Houck then went to the Synod of the U. S. of the Reformed Church at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, in 1818 and was ordained there to the ministry. He then served some churches in Virginia and came back to N. C. in 1828. He served our churches in Davidson County. Thus, we can find no sure and reliable record of any Reformed pastor who may have done this organizing. There seems to be little that is certain either, on the Lutheran side until 1835. Therefore, let us turn to the facts that we do know and proceed from there.

Rev. Samuel Rothrock came to St. Paul's in 1835, a Lutheran pastor, and his diary shows he was preaching regularly once a month at "Holshouser's Church." This shows the church was already established, in accordance with the earlier date of the deed. Suffice it to say, that enough activity was taking place in the community of St. Paul's that by 1832, Andrew Holshouser was inclined to give land and regular preaching was held as early as 1835.

We would note from Rev. Rothrock's diary, for example, that he preached at "Holshouser's Church" on February 22, 1835, March 22, 1835, April 5, 1835, had a funeral April 26, 1835, as instances of his regular preaching, usually 2 or 3 in the afternoon on Sundays. He also attended the wedding of Rev. John Lantz to Miss Nancy Fraley on April 23, 1845. They were married by Rev. David Crooks. His diary also mentions that the Lutheran Synod met in St. Paul's Church in May, 1845 and May of 1848.

The church is mentioned for the first time in the Minutes of the Lutheran Synod in 1837 when Rev. Rothrock turned over a contribution of \$3.00 to the Lutheran Synod from the church, in the name of "Holshouser's Church." In 1838 it was referred to as "St. Paul's" in the Lutheran Minutes of Synod.

From the history written by St. Paul's Lutheran Church, published in 1964, the following are listed as the Lutheran pastors up until the 1850's. Rev. Samuel Rothrock 1835-1843; Rev. Benjamine Arey 1843-1845; and Rev. J. A. Linn, Sr. 1845-1855.

Now at this point, we note the first documented facts we can find of the activity of a Reformed pastor at St. Paul's. We refer to Rev. John Lantz, who organized a Reformed congregation in 1850.

## THE ST. PAUL'S GERMAN REFORMED CHURCH

### Rowan County, N. C.

In 1850, we find that Rev. John Lantz organized the Reformed side of St. Paul's congregation with seventeen members present. According to an earlier history written by Dr. J. C. Leonard, "History of Southern Synod" in 1940, he states that these seventeen members were: Jacob Lingle, John Lippard, Sr., John Lippard, Jr., Daniel Peeler, David Kluttz, Solomon Kluttz, Peter A. Fisher, David Fisher, John Yost; Michael Shuping, Margaret Kluttz, Barbara Kluttz, Anna Weaver, Mary C. Trexler, Sarah Peeler, Christina Peeler and Eliza Rendleman. The first officers were Elders: Jacob Lingle and Daniel Peeler; Deacons: John Yost and Solomon Kluttz. Dr. Leonard again in his history states that the first recorded baptism is that of Wade Rufus, son of George Rendleman, born January 21, 1851 and baptized May 24, 1851.

At the next meeting of Classis, in the minutes of 1851, under the section of "Church Government" on page 127, we find confirmation of this organization. It was reported, "The Rev. John Lantz having organized a congregation in the vicinity of Salisbury, called the St. Paul's Church of Rowan Co., N. C. They were at their own request received under the care of Classis. On motion it was resolved that this congregation for the present remain under the pastoral care of Rev. John Lantz." This means the church became a part of the East Rowan Charge, made up of the following churches: Lower Stone, Bear Creek, and St. Paul's. The congregation was also mentioned for the first time in the statistics of 1851. It is interesting to note that a special meeting of Classis was held the next year on Wednesday, Feb. 25, 1852 at St. Paul's (Holshouser's) Church. The Classis again met at St. Paul's ten years later on April 25, 1862. During these years, several of these names of the first members and officers appear as the Elder delegates to the meeting of Classis. For example, in 1852, Daniel Peeler was the delegate from St. Paul's. In 1853 the statistics also showed that three churches composed the East Rowan Charge, and that Rev. Thornton Butler was living at Kluttz Tanyard. In 1852 a call was extended to Rev. Thornton Butler from the East Rowan Charge to become their pastor.

From the records of Lower Stone Church we find the following concerning the call to Rev. Butler. A committee consisting of Moses Foil (Grace) Col. Barnhardt (Bethel) and Jacob Lingle (St. Paul's) having been appointed to confer with Rev. Thornton Butler of Lexington, N. C., in reference to the acceptance of a call proposed to be tendered him . . . election held 22nd Nov. 1852. A call was accordingly made out and signed by all the officers (Moses Foil, David Kluttz, Martin Lippard and Henry Peeler, Sr., Elders of Grace and Levi Kluttz, George Boger, Jr., Jos. Holshouser and Peter Casper, deacons of Grace).

Geo. Barnhardt and John Mosse, Elders, and Mat Moore, and Nelson Barrier deacons of Bethel; Jacob Lingle and Daniel Peeler, Elders and John Yost and Solomon Kluttz, deacons of St. Paul's and was placed in the hands of Rev. Butler who accepted and entered his duties Jan. 1, 1853. The call promises him a salary of \$300, and grain sufficient for one horse and comfortable dwelling after the first year.



He withdrew from charge for six months during which time on 23 Dec., 1853, Mrs. Butler died and an only daughter having died in September of the same year. He returned January 1, 1854 and it was agreed to furnish 50 bushels of corn for his horse for year of 1854.

Another record from Lower Stone Church tells an interesting item about Rev. Butler. This is taken from "Epitome of History of Grace Lower Stone Church." It says "Thornton Butler came in 1853. He was the pastor of the church here during the great rebellion and war; which lasted more than four years. He was an ardent zealous union man. He gave all his influence to the side of the union peace and religion. In the year 1869 he was at his own request dismissed by the Classis of N. C. to unite with the Classis of Illinois."

In 1854 Mr. Lippard was Elder at Classis with alternate being Jacob Lingle. In 1855 Jacob Lingle was delegate Elder at Classis with David Peeler as alternate.

For the year 1855, the East Rowan Charge reported 36 additions to the churches of the charge. The full statistics for the charge show 268 members, 30 baptisms, 36 confirmed, 19 deaths.

Next we note that in the year 1856, a Rev. Gilbert Lane was received into the Classis from the Protestant Reformed Dutch Church. Mr. Lane was licensed by the Classis of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, of that denomination, and was dismissed to the N. C. Classis of the German Reformed Church. Mr. Lane was ordained to serve in our churches on May 5, 1856, with Rev. G. William Welker preaching the ordination sermon. Mr. Lane was assigned to help assist Rev. Butler in his duties, and so for about a year, he pastored in the East Rowan Charge. In the 1856 statistics it shows that Mr. Lane was living at Gold Hill, N. C., and the charge consisted of 275 members, 33 baptized, 10 confirmed, 2 certificates (transfers) 12 deaths. Then in 1857 Mr. Lane requested a dismissal back to the Protestant Reformed Dutch Church, and our Classis granted him this permission at a special meeting on September 15, 1857.

In 1858 Jacob Lingle was again delegate to Classis meeting, which met at Lower Stone Church that year. The 1858 statistics show 280 members in the charge, 35 baptized, 6 confirmed, 32 deaths. In 1859 the report was 295 members, 22 confirmed, 25 infant baptisms, 2 dismissals, 15 deaths, and 3 Sunday Schools. In 1863 the reports showed 338 members, 22 baptized, 16 confirmed, 2 certificates, 2 dismissals, 12 deaths, and 5 Sunday Schools. Rev. Butler's address at this time was Rockville, N. C.

## THE ORGANIZATION OF MT. HOPE GERMAN REFORMED CHURCH

In November, 1865, the Classis of N. C. of the Reformed Church met late in the year because of hostile armies being present earlier in the year during the Civil War. They gave authority to Rev. Thornton Butler to disband the Reformed congregation at St. Paul's and organize at a point about seven miles from Salisbury on the New Concord Road. The 1865 minutes on page 7 describes this action as follows: "Voted that 3/4 of the members of St. Paul's Church, Rowan County, concurring that congregation to dissolve in order to reorganize at Mt. Hope in said County to form a new church, and that all the members be advised to connect themselves with the church at that place."

This new organization took place as advised, and the minutes of 1866 of Classis page 19 reflect that fact. Rev. Thornton Butler reported as follows: "In accordance with a resolution of Classis, organized a new German Reformed Church at Mt. Hope Rowan County on the 14th day of January, 1866, numbering 36 members, the members of St. Paul's congregation with very few exceptions connected themselves with this congregation"

But words perhaps have a way of making things sound too easy. This organization did not take place without a warm and heart felt story of the desire to have a church. Without the love and devotion of especially one family, Mt. Hope would never have been a reality. We speak now of the Lingle Family, particularly of two brothers, John and Jacob Lingle. When the little band of worshippers met on January 14, 1866 for formal organization, they had the promise of land on which to build their church. On February 2, 1866, Jacob Lingle deeded five acres to Mt. Hope, and on February 10, 1866, John Lingle deeded six acres to the church. It can be established today, that the land on which the church stands on that side of the highway, plus some on the opposite side was Jacob Lingle's land. The remainder, now mostly in woods growth was John Lingle's land.

But more deserved to be said of these men who so generously offered their land. Perhaps they did this because of a precedent set by their grandfather before them, for their grandfather, Lorenz Lingle provided the land in 1774 for Lower Stone Church. The deed to Lower Stone Church states: "Lowrence Lingle & wife Chatren let Andrew Holshouser, Sr. & John Lippard, have for the Calvin congregation adjacent or belonging to the meeting house 16 acres for 5 pounds (proclamation money)" Book 8, P. 146 1774

It is interesting to note that almost all of the 17 names of the members of St. Paul's in 1850 can be found on the earlier records of Lower-stone in some fashion or other, either in birthdate, baptism, marriages or communions.

However, as we continue the story of the Lingle Family, we notice that Lorenz Lingle had nine children, but his firstborn, Casper Lingle, was the Father of John and Jacob Lingle. John was born July 3, 1790, and Jacob on Ascension Day, May 14, 1795. They were reared in Lower Stone Church as children, baptized there, and lived in the vicinity of that church. Then

on December 30, 1830, Jacob Lingle married Elizabeth Sefford, and on July 28, 1832, John Lingle married Catherine Isahom. Jacob and his wife apparently remained childless, but John Lingle evidently had several children, as the 1850 census shows five children in his household, but there is also some evidence that some cousins were living with him as well. Thus, we are not sure how many children that he himself had.

Thus, the Lingle family played a prominent part in the beginnings of Mt. Hope Church and were to continue so throughout their lifetimes. We have already noted the early activity of Jacob Lingle during the days of the union church at St. Paul's.

At this January 14th meeting in 1866, the congregation formally organized as Mt. Hope German Reformed Church. The following persons at this organization were elected officers: Elders; David Roseman and Solomon Kluttz; the deacons were: John W. Fisher, J. H. A. Lippard, E. S. P. Lippard and Martin Yost. Immediately these people planned towards a brick church to measure 60 feet by 40 feet. They would make their own brick, and build their own church. But before this could be done, a temporary meeting place was needed. Thus, a simple frame building was used directly behind where the brick building now stands. A brush arbor was used also in favorable weather. The story is told that occasionally on cold nights, sheep were known to have gathered under this frame building to keep warm.

## THE CHURCH IS BUILT

The timber was cut for the new building from the church property, and the bricks were also made on the church property, the evidence of the old brick yard remaining yet today in the woods below the cemetery.

The following advertisement appeared in the local newspaper called "The Old North State," Wednesday evening, May 9, 1866 and was repeated in the May 11 issue:

### CHURCH BUILDING

On Saturday, May 26th, at noon, we will let, to the lowest bidder, the contracts for making one hundred thousand bricks, for the building of a new German Reformed Church, 7½ miles from Salisbury on the New Concord Road. We will furnish the wood and receive the bricks at the yard.

Solomon Kluttz	}	Committee
J. W. Fisher		
J. H. A. Lippard		

To the best of our knowledge, those who must have responded to this advertisement were Mr. Ambrose Casper, Mr. John Johnson and his brother.

Mr. Ambrose Casper was a member of the congregation, and in addition to helping make the brick, he also laid many of the brick in the build-

ing. The Johnson Brothers also helped lay the brick. Mr. Ambrose Casper was the father of Mr. Willie Casper, a member of our church today.



**MR. AMBROSE CASPER—Early member of Mt. Hope Church**

Work progressed apparently slowly, but steadily. An old record shows that money was subscribed to finish the church in 1869. It reads as follows: Mount Hope—May the 8th 1869 We the un Der Linet (under lined) promis to pay the sum anext to our names for the purpes of finishing the church." Under this heading were 29 subscribers and three entries marked "cash" totaling \$14.90.

Some other old receipts show the following: On August 12, 1869 4 lbs. Crome Green Paint was purchased from the Smith Foster & Co. for \$1.40 and on August 15, 1869, Mr. Jacob Lingle for Mount Hope Church bought 2 lbs. Chrome Green Paint for \$.70. We presume that this paint was for the window shutters of the church, which was probably one of the last things to be done to the church. Another interesting receipt shows Mr. P. A. Lippard made his pledge in the following way, possibly typical of the manner of paying pledges of that day and time. It reads as follows: "To Mt. H. Church Subscription \$100.00 By Flour and Bacon \$34.45 By note of John Lippard \$35.00 By note of J. H. A. Lippard \$24.00 Total \$93.45. Due on Subscription \$6.55 Feb. 10th 1868."



Concerning these old receipts, we are yet today indebted to Jacob Lingle for the preservation of these old records. Mt. Hope has been in possession of a small "deeds" box belonging to Jacob Lingle, containing many personal papers and church records, without which, much information in this history would be lacking. It is not quite known for a surety how this box came into the possession of the church, but one possible explanation is this: Inasmuch as no children were direct heirs to Jacob Lingle when he passed away, plus the fact that he willed everything he had to Mt. Hope Church, it is theorized that even this box was turned over to the church for keeping. We do know that Mr. Theodore A. P. Roseman, when trustee of the church, kept the box. He then gave it to Milo Roseman, who in turn gave it to Mr. George Pless when he was trustee. Mr. Pless gave it over to the church for filing and keeping. Thus, a highly important source of history has been preserved, and apparently never before greatly used until now.



**Mt. Hope as it appeared in the early days**

## **EARLY PASTORS OF MT. HOPE CHURCH**

It is said that Rev. Thornton Butler preached the dedication sermon at Mt. Hope, although we do not know the date. But it may be said of this first beloved pastor, that he served his congregation well. Rev. Butler was afflicted with ill health and left in 1869 to go to Illinois. He was dismissed to the Classis of Illinois, but only one year later he died at his residence at Anna, Illinois, on November 2, 1870.

He was born on October 4, 1820, in Catawba County, N. C., thus being only 50 years of age at his death. But of those few 50 years, he made good use of them. He was licensed in the ministry at the special meeting of Classis on January 26, 1848, when he finished his studies at the Theological Seminary at Mercersburg, Pennsylvania. His first charge was in Davidson County. He was ordained March 12, 1848. He also taught a school in the town of Lexington, and was described in the newspaper

"The Dispatch" as a splendid teacher. We know also that he was a surveyor as well, as Mt. Hope has in its possession, a copy of a plot of land later to become the parsonage property, which was surveyed on April 5, 1862, and signed with his personal signature.

The Minutes of Classis and the records of Lower Stone Church also tell of the nature of this man. He was very active in the meeting of Classis, and the records of Lower Stone have already been reported. For example, in his last year in N. C. Classis in 1869, there is recorded on page 67 in the minutes a long resolution offered by Rev. Butler to the effect that all ministers should give their entire devotion to the field of the ministry. Some men were without charge at that time, neglecting the high calling of the ministry. He asked in his resolution that all such men without charge should report next year to take proper steps to find a field of labor in the church and in the Classis of N. C.

He served only two charges while in North Carolina. One in Davidson County, and the East Rowan Charge, of which Mt. Hope was a part. After his death, the Classis of N. C. meeting in 1871, remembered him and recognized him for his years of loyal service.

The next pastor to assume pastoral duties at Mt. Hope was Rev. J. C. Denny. He was pastor from 1869 to 1871. Rev. Denny had originally come from the Presbyterian Church. He had been licensed by the Presbytery of Orange, and then was ordained and received into the N. C. Classis at Brick Church, September 15th 1866.

He served as President of Classis in the year 1870.

Rev. Denny also organized Shiloh Church in Faith at this time in 1871. He served there also until 1877. He then went from there into the Baptist Church.

Rev. P. M. Trexler next became pastor of Mt. Hope Church from 1871 to 1877. He came to the Classis and the church as a highly educated man. He was licensed at the 1871 meeting of the Classis. As he came to us, the charge was also realigned as follows: in place of the East Rowan Charge, Mt. Hope and Shiloh Churches were set off as a new charge to be called the Central Rowan Charge, together with the action of the general Consistory of the charge favorable to the decision. In the 1871 statistics of Classis, the Central Rowan Charge contained 300 members, and the pastor lived at Gold Hill, N. C. During this pastorate, new pews were placed in the church. These new pews were made and assembled in the church by Mr. Mose Barger. They replaced the original pews, which were simply slab pews with no backs, and these were disposed of as the new ones were made. The church still owns one of the pews made by Mr. Barger. Rev. Trexler resigned from this church in 1875.

The next item of interest we discover was in 1877 on page 195 of the minutes of Classis reading as follows: "A petition from the Elders and Deacons of the Mt. Hope Church asking a dissolution of the union that exists between that church and the Shiloh Church and from the Central Rowan Charge. Inasmuch as the Shiloh congregation does not unite in the request, no provision can be made for the supply of the several separate churches. We recommend that the request be not granted." Page

196—"It was recommended to the Mt. Hope and the Shiloh congregations now forming Central Rowan Charge to unite the St. Luke's congregation with themselves and call a pastor but that in failure to that effect such union that either one or any two of these congregations be permitted to supply themselves with preaching until the next meeting of Classis." Had this request been possible, it doubtless would have meant that Mt. Hope would have become a single charge, with a desire to seek their own pastor.

The next pastor was Rev. John Ingle who served from 1878 to 1882. It was during his pastorate that a subscription school was held during the week in the back of the church. Rev. Ingle taught this school, as well as preaching at Mt. Hope. Mr. George Pless, a member of our church now attended this school. Later a schoolhouse was built across the road from the church. There were about 25 or 30 pupils who attended this school. An item of interest about this school is told by Mr. Pless. Rev. Ingle always opened this school each day by having the children sing the song "O Happy Day." As a result, this is still a favorite song for Mr. Pless. Mr. Pless also remembers Rev. Ingle as an excellent pastor and a good mixer with the people. It was during this pastorate that another big development took place at Mt. Hope. Again, we find that Jacob Ingle befriended the church. During this year, 1878, he furnished 70 acres of property to the church for the purpose of building a parsonage, and also a donation at two different times totaling \$120.00 with which to start this project. In the minutes of Classis in 1879, page 235, the Classis recognized this gift by stating: "One of the pastoral charges has been put in the possession of a parsonage at the cost of Elder Jacob Ingle of the Mt. Hope Church in the Central Rowan Charge." In examining the deed for this property, we note that the deed is found in Deed Book 55, page 468, dated February 25, 1879 and states that Luke Blackmer acting as trustee for Eli S. P. Lippard, sold the land to Jacob Ingle for \$350.00 to have for all his natural life, and after his death, to go to the elders of the Mount Hope German Reformed Church and their successors. It is interesting to note that this land was originally the property of Eli S. P. Lippard and that it is the tract of land which Thornton Butler surveyed for Mr. Lippard in 1862. With this wonderful gift, the church began planning towards a parsonage. In the meantime, Rev. Ingle resigned from the charge in 1883, and went to Blowing Rock, N. C. He did mission there for the Classis until his death in 1926. He also operated the "Ingle House" lodging establishment at Blowing Rock. He had twelve children, 2 of which are still living at the time of this writing. Rev. P. M. Trexler supplied the church until the next pastor, Rev. Robert F. Crooks began his pastorate here.

## THE PASSING OF MT. HOPE'S BENEFACTORS

We must now take notice of the passing of the great benefactor of Mt. Hope Church, Mr. Jacob Ingle. Jacob Ingle passed away from this life on January 31, 1882, age 86 years, 8 months, 17 days. From this date, we would assume that Rev. Ingle probably conducted his funeral. It must have been with great sadness that the members of Mt. Hope looked upon the passing of this man who loved his church so much and had done so much for it. One last important thing should be said about Mr. Ingle. As inferred earlier, even in death, Mr. Ingle remembered his church. The



following is taken from his will: "Item 4 I will that soon after my death, my executor make sale of all my personal property, not otherwise disposed of, collect the proceeds of said sale, together with all the debts owing to me, without serving and making cost, and after paying my funeral expenses and all my just debts, the remainder of money and uncollected notes (notes that cannot be collected without cost) to be paid over to the church council of the Reformed (German) Church, known as Mt. Hope, in Rowan County, N. C. by my executor who shall take a receipt from said church council." The will was witnessed by John L. Rendleman and George A. Miller. Mr. John Yost was named as his executor in the will. The date when the will was written was February 8, 1873.

In accordance with his will, the following receipts show the payment of a note for \$100.00 October 22, 1880 and a note for \$20.00 on July 14, 1884. These notes were used towards the parsonage and witnessed by R. F. Crooks on August 15, 1888. Another note for \$5.00 was received and also ten dollars on the same date for Mt. Hope Church. And yet another amount came to the church as late as August 26, 1894 being the amount of one share that the Jacob Lingle estate had in Rowan Academy to the amount of \$4.37.

Here was a man who loved his church in many ways, his interest in its welfare being very broad. We note also his receipts for \$50.00 given



**BIRTH CERTIFICATE OF MR. JACOB LINGLE**



to Catawba College, first \$25.00 on September 6, 1852 and \$25.00 on February 19, 1854. This was for the building fund of the college, for the college had just been established in 1851.

It would seem, therefore, that Jacob Lingle, as a man, lived up to the expectations of his parents or whoever inscribed the following poem or verse upon his birth certificate. It states first his name and birthdate, "Jacob Lingle was born in the year of our Lord 1795 the 14th day of May." Then follows this verse:

*"Convince the world that you are just and true  
Be just in all you say and in all you do  
Whatsoever be your birth. You are sure to be  
A man of the first magnitude to me."*

A date of August 18th, 1816 follows the poem which must have been the date when the certificate was drawn up, which is a work of art itself. It is very carefully hand drawn and beautifully colored in a most artistic way.

So with many fond memories, the members of Mt. Hope looked back upon the life of Mr. Lingle. He is buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery, the marker yet in good condition. May it also be said here that Jacob's wife, Elizabeth, died earlier in life on July 15, 1863 and is buried at St. Paul's Church, for that was yet in the days of the union church. She was born in April, 1802.



**Gravestone marker of Jacob Lingle in Mt. Hope Cemetery**

Concerning John Lingle, we do not know quite as much about his later life as we do his brother Jacob. John, apparently, died in 1874, for his will was probated before the probate judge of Rowan County and was recorded on December 7, 1874. Michael Bostian was executor of his will. The executor further stated that Margaret C. Lingle, widow, and Children, Mary Ann Hampton, wife of David Hampton, and Sarah Marie Lingle were entitled to the property. A son, Alfred Lingle is also mentioned in the will.

We see something of the religious quality of this man also, when we read the following from the beginning of his will: "I commend my soul to God who gave it, and my body to the earth from whence it was taken, that my friends provide for it a decent burial, and in relation to the property which the Lord in his infinite goodness blessed me with, I dissolve of as follows." Then came the contents of the will. He also willed his Bible and hymnbook to his wife. The will was written on April 1, 1864, and was witnessed by P. A. Lippard and A. F. Greaber. It is recorded in the Book of Wills No. 1, page 278 of Rowan County. Apparently, Mrs. Lingle died also sometime in the 1870's for her name is not recorded in the 1880 census. It is presumed that they are buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery, but if so, there is no marker to indicate this place.

So ended the lives of the two great benefactors who provided land and impetus to the beginnings of Mt. Hope Congregation. May their souls rest in peace in accordance with their dedication to the church they loved.

## THE CHURCH PLANS FOR A PARSONAGE

6 The next pastor, Rev. Robert F. Crooks, came to us in 1885. We notice first that he was the son of a minister, Rev. David Crooks of Lincoln County, who also ably served the N. C. Classis. Rev. R. F. Crooks was born September 29, 1847, in Lincoln County. He was educated at Catawba College and also Ursinus College in Pennsylvania, from which he graduated. It is interesting to note that Rev. Crooks was aided in his education by the churches of Classis in the following manner: He was received under the care of Classis in 1867 and in 1869 the Classis voted that in proportion to membership each church should provide for Mr. Crook's maintenance while engaged in his studies. Rev. Ingle, Mr. McCorkle, and Mr. Roseman were to be the committee to estimate the probable amount needed for this purpose and proportion each charge accordingly. The committee reported that \$120.00 will be sufficient to board and clothe Mr. Crooks for 12 months. The assessment was as follows: "Matthews \$15, Catawba \$10, St. Johns \$10, Grace \$20, E. Rowan \$20, Upper Davidson \$12.50, Lower Davidson \$12.50, Guilford \$20, West Rowan \$20, total \$140. This to be paid to treasury of Catawba College to be disbursed as he needs it."

Rev. Crooks was then licensed May 26, 1877 and ordained the first Sunday in June, 1877, by Rev. John A. Foil, Julius A. Shuford, and Rev. J. C. Denny, and was installed as pastor of East Rowan Charge, Lowerstone and Bear Creek, as his first charge. It was about 1885 that Rev. Crooks became pastor of the Central Rowan Charge. The 1885 minutes of Classis reports on page 7 "Resolved, that inasmuch as the Central Rowan Charge is without a regular pastor, it be recommended to the joint Con-

sistory to meet as soon as convenient and elect a pastor, who shall give his entire time to his work. In the 1885 statistics R. F. Crooks was now pastor of Central Rowan Charge.

Rev. Crooks, during his pastorate, had the privilege of seeing the parsonage built, which was mentioned earlier in connection with Jacob Lingle. This event took place shortly after the settlement between Mt. Hope and Lower Stone concerning a parsonage built jointly in the 1860's when Rev. Butler was pastor. Lower Stone, Bear Creek, and Mt. Hope had jointly built a parsonage together, when the charge was still the East Rowan Charge, at Lower Stone. From Mr. Lingle's deed box, we have the following records concerning the building of this parsonage. On August 15th 1857, Jacob Lingle turned over \$11 from St. Paul's congregation for the parsonage fund. Witnessed by Solomon Fisher and John Lippard. Again on October the 17th, 1857 "Received of Jacob Lingle Fourteen dollars and twenty five cents the amount due to the completion of the parsonage of the Eastern Rowan Charge from Saint Paul's Church (a balance due on the former contract from said church) Witnessed by Solomon Fisher and David Corl (building committee)." We also have a subscription list dated August 24, 1856, of 14 names pledging a total of \$8.00 for the completion of the parsonage at the Lower Stone Church.

We also note from the Lower Stone records that in December of 1877 they report "that Mount Hope owed on the parsonage as far back as "the late war." How much this may have been we do not know. We do know that when Mt. Hope became part of the Central Rowan Charge and no longer connected with Lower Stone and Bear Creek Churches, that Lower Stone Church on August 22, 1879, paid \$60 to David Roseman, trustee of Mt. Hope, for the  $\frac{1}{4}$  share that we had in the old Lower Stone parsonage. Thus, Mt. Hope was ready to build their own parsonage on the land furnished by Mr. Lingle.

Rev. Crooks helped plan and build the parsonage while he was here as pastor. He was ably equipped to do so, for Mr. Crooks was an excellent blacksmith as well as pastor, and Mr. George Pless, as a small boy, worked many days for him in his blacksmith shop making spokes and wagon wheels and other such work. Mr. Crooks was also known for the grain cradles that he made, and many times he often stayed up at night to make coffins when deaths occurred.

Again, looking at the receipts left to us from Jacob Lingle's deed box, we find that the building of Mt. Hope's parsonage occurred during 1886 to 1888. There are 28 receipts saved in the little deed box pertaining to the parsonage. The earliest dated is January 11, 1886, for sawing lumber. The latest dated is October 22, 1888, for window putty. These receipts cover many items used in building such as the following: lumber and sawing, doors, nails, masonry work, glass, putty, shingles, tin, rock and corner rock, brick, hinges, door locks, rope, paint, and labor. The total of these receipts come to \$233.19, showing that much spent in the building of this parsonage. We do not know if this represents all the costs or not. Much of the timber used was either donated or came from church property. These receipts, found in the deed box, also shows that apparently the trustees of the church continued filing items for the church in this box, and so has been preserved to this day and time.

*parsonage receipts*





**The first parsonage of Mt. Hope Church  
Built 1886-1888  
Now owned by Mr. R. P. Campbell**

## **THE CHURCH FACES DIFFICULT TIMES**

It would seem that just as Mt. Hope was now about to prosper in its own right with a church built and a new parsonage finished and a growing congregation, the fate in an unfair way now dealt a blow which would effect Mt. Hope for many years. On the crest of this wave of prosperity, came also a backlash of church difficulties which cut off much of the growing life of the congregation. An unfortunate clash occurred between the church, the charge, the Classis, and the pastor.

The following, therefore, is simply that part of the account as it effected Mt. Hope Church, and is intended neither to justify nor criticize the issues and individuals involved in the struggle. As historians, we are concerned with the story of Mt. Hope Church, and with the passing of these many years, we do well not to bring up personal issues, but the following should be said in order to understand the problems of later years.

The matter began to develop at the 1887 meeting of Classis, when on page 8 in the Report of the Committee on Overtures, Item 3, the following was reported. "A communication from the St. Luke's Church of the Central Rowan Charge asking that after the first of June, Classis provide that they have pastoral ministration." Action on this item was as follows: "Classis further directed the Committee on Vacant Churches to meet at the Mt. Hope Church of Central Rowan Charge; consult with the officers and members of that charge respecting the condition of their congregation and if possible arrange to preserve the unity of said charge in the enjoyment of all the means of grace. Should they, however, fail in this end,



and not succeed in adjusting the existing troubles, that they provide pastoral ministration for the St. Luke's congregation until the next meeting of this Classis."

With this we note that Rev. R. F. Crooks was listed as supply of the Central Rowan Charge in the statistics of 1887 of the minutes of Classis. Following upon this in 1888 the roll of ministers shows R. F. Crooks without charge, and Central Rowan Charge listed as vacant. At this meeting of Classis in 1888, George H. Ritchie was Elder representing the Central Rowan Charge.

In the minutes of 1888, we also now note the following report: The Report of the Committee on Vacant Charges, page 8, says, "Your Committee on Vacant Charges and Congregations ask leave to say that there are within the bounds of N. C. Classis two vacant charges, Lower Davidson and Central Rowan. Of the latter charge, one congregation has been supplied by Rev. Mr. Heller with the approval of the committee. (This was apparently St. Luke's Church. Rev. C. B. Heller was pastor of East Rowan Charge at this time.) Shiloh has been without preaching since January 1888, while Mt. Hope is still supplied by Rev. Mr. Crooks. Your committee in compliance with the order of the Classis of 1887 met at Mt. Hope Church of the Central Rowan Charge on the 28th of May, 1887 to arrange for a pastor for the charge. The joint Consistory was convened at the same time, the object of the meeting set forth, the condition of the charge considered, and arrangements agreed upon for calling a regular pastor over said charge. *This agreement has not been carried out.* We learn that Rev. Crook refuses to accept a call, and has asserted his intention to supply Mt. Hope independent of the authority of Classis provided a majority of the members of the congregation sustained him and Classis did not lock the door on him."

Page 9—"What to do for these charges and how to secure pastoral ministration for them was the burden of discussion for a long time. The delegate elders from these charges and a secundus who were present were heard on the cause of their trouble. It was apparent from all the facts that could be reached that the real source of the trouble in each case was the presence of the retired minister who still had their adherents that refuse to unite with their brethren in a call for a pastor as long as they could have their old minister. The final action of Classis is summed up in the following resolutions, Viz: "Resolved that Rev. Lewis Reiter and Elders J. C. Lippard and J. A. Shank be appointed a committee to notify Rev. Robert F. Crooks to vacate the Central Rowan Charge at once and recall all his appointments and further that this committee be empowered to supply said charge with services and that they report the result of their action immediately to the President of Classis who shall, if the demand of Classis is not complied with, call a special meeting of Classis to consider his conduct."

Concerning the Lower Davidson Charge, Rev. C. B. Heller and Elders A. P. Long and Valentine Leonard were given this charge in care and are to give the same notice to any minister who might preach in any of its congregations, as in the Central Rowan Charge, in order to open the way that several congregations might unite to call a minister.

Thus, to pinpoint the problem, in summary, it appears that Rev. Crooks was supplying only Mt. Hope Church, and this must have been his desire

in the matter, while the Classis, on the other hand, wanted to see pastoral service to include all three churches of the charge, and an agreement, it seems, could not be reached. Now the outcome of this matter is what is important to Mt. Hope. This last appointed committee did meet again at Mt. Hope and asked Mr. Crooks to resign. Mr. Crooks did so, but along with it, many members of the church left over the matter as well, being sympathetic to Mr. Crook's cause. An eye witness account of this matter stated that the church started a new membership all over again, with only 45 members. This became the 1889 church book, which is presently the oldest record we have at Mt. Hope.

We see the seriousness of this for Mt. Hope, for we realize that this had some far reaching implications for the church. The older members who remember this experience say that the majority of people attending the church left, only 45 members remaining with the church. Eventually, however, some of them came back. But the growth and progress of the church was interrupted and hindered.

However, if we turn our attention to the table of statistics of 1888, we note there the figures about Mt. Hope Church as reported to Classis before this difficulty occurred. The statistics report Mt. Hope as having 57 members, 59 baptized members, infants 8, confirmations 4, 1 death, 147 scholars in Sunday School and \$75.00 contributed to congregational expenses. It should be further noted that this 147 scholars for Sunday School represented the largest Sunday School in the entire Classis that year.

Mr. George Pless, in remembering this event, however, informs us that the last sermon Mr. Crooks preached before his resignation was entitled "Fear God And Keep His Commandments." He remembers Mr. Crooks as a strong spoken preacher, and preached to nearly a full house at Mt. Hope, nearly 200 people. Mr. Crooks continued to attend church at Mt. Hope, and Rev. J. M. L. Lyerly became pastor of the church.

Rev. Crooks from this point retired from the active ministry, his name erased from Classis July 17, 1888. Thus, he was the only pastor to live in the old parsonage. We do not know exactly how long he did live in it, as this occurred about the time the parsonage was finished. The congregation allowed Mr. Crooks to live in the parsonage for some time afterwards. He then moved nearby to the property once owned by Julius A. Castor. From there he moved eventually to China Grove and then to Concord for the remainder of his life.

We should note that Rev. Crooks was much loved by the people of Mt. Hope, for he had helped plan and build the parsonage for them, he was well known and liked for his blacksmith services in the community, and those who left the church did so because of sympathy for his cause. It should be noted also that Rev. Crooks was invited back from time to time to preach at Mt. Hope. We also have a note in the deed box that he baptized Mary Viola Josey on January 31, 1896, and she was later confirmed on July 9, 1899. Probably the last sermons he preached at Mt. Hope were on November 25, 1923 and December 9, 1923 according to treasurer's records. A few weeks later on January 13, 1924, Rev. Crooks departed this life. We note also that Rev. Crooks has three children buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery. They are: Infant son of Rev. & Mrs. R. F. Crooks, March

25, 1893; George W. Crooks, June 26, 1891-March 30, 1893; and David B. Crooks, September 25, 1877-June 12, 1899.

Thus, came to a close the influence of a man, despite the difficulties he endured, was nevertheless much loved by the people and did a good work among them.

## THE CONTINUING STORY OF MT. HOPE

The continuing narrative of the story of Mt. Hope continues with the pastorate of Rev. J. M. L. Lyerly. The minutes of Classis in 1889, page 8, tells us the following under the "Report of Charges and Churches": The committee on the Central Rowan Charge reported that it was now open to the authority of Classis and the property in the hands of the Reformed trustees and the charge anxious to have a pastor settled over them. It was put under the care of licentiate Lyerly with a view to his becoming the pastor in the future. Another reflection upon the adjustment which the charge had to make during these difficult times is the following report of the same year of the Committee on Overtures: "A request from the Central Rowan Charge asking aid to an extent not less than \$100 to supplement the salary of supply or pastor. Classis appropriated \$100 for this purpose out of its missionary fund. Also the expenses incurred by the committee in the matter of the Central Rowan Charge was allowed as follows: Rev. Trexler \$4.00, Rev. Reiter \$10.00 and Rev. J. L. Murphy \$5.00. The Classis also released the charge from last year's apportionment for beneficiary education." *supply 1889*

Thus went the same pattern for the next number of years. In 1890, Page 7 of the minutes, for example "\$75.00 appropriated to supplement the salary of the pastor of the Central Rowan Charge." Page 7 also tells us that Rev. J. M. L. Lyerly was installed pastor of the charge in 1890. Again in 1891, page 7, "A request from the Central Rowan Charge asking Classis to supplement the pastor's salary. Ordered that the treasurer pay \$100.00 of the \$325.00 apportioned for home missions to the pastor when the charge pays \$300 in support of the said pastor." Theodore A. P. Roseman of Mt. Hope was the delegate present that year representing the charge. In 1892 Central Rowan Charge asked aid on the pastor's salary, but the request was laid over for the present. In the overtures of that year was the request for the pastoral relation between J. M. L. Lyerly and the Central Rowan Charge to be dissolved and charge declared vacant. Rev. Barringer and Rev. Trexler supplied the charge with preaching. Lyerly went to the Lincoln charge, but he stayed only one year, and came back to the Central Rowan Charge. He remained pastor of the charge until the end of 1908, making Rev. Lyerly's the longest pastorate in the history of Mt. Hope Church, a total of 18 years, counting his student year of 1889, and minus the one year he spent in the Lincoln charge. *Installed 1889*

Much credit goes to Rev. Lyerly for this long pastorate and good service during these difficult times. He was regarded as an excellent pastor and good preacher. The Classis remembers Dr. Lyerly also as the organizer of the Nazareth Orphan's Home, now known as Nazareth Children's Home.

Certainly not all was gloom at this time, for in 1894 during his pastorate, some remodeling was done to the church. The chancel was reworked,

with the old "goblet style" pulpit being removed and new pulpit installed. This second pulpit of the church was built by Mr. Calvin Cruse and is still in our church hut today. In 1898 an organ was placed in the church. It was a Weaver Organ from the Weaver Organ and Piano Co. of York, Pennsylvania. It was installed July 15, 1898 according to the warranty card and guaranteed for six years. There had been no musical instrument in the church, incidently, before this time; although Jeremiah (Jerry) Pless had led music, as well as some others in the church. This organ was used in the church until April, 1925, when a piano was purchased. Eventually the organ was sold and is still owned today by Mrs. Henry Stirewalt.

A random sampling of the minutes of Classis in 1906 reflect the growth back of Mt. Hope Church. Except for the year 1888, until after 1905, the statistics are listed as a whole charge. After that, the statistics show the figures for individual churches. So in 1906 we read for Mt. Hope 60 communicants, 68 communed, 60 unconfirmed, 8 infant baptisms, 2 confirmed, 4 certificates, 4 dismissed, 1 death, 10 teachers, 120 scholars in Sunday School, \$50.00 for benevolent purposes and \$100.00 congregational expenses.

One last item should be mentioned in Rev. Mr. Lyerly's pastorate. Due to former difficulties, in an effort to keep up the pastor's salary and to save the church, the parsonage and land which the congregation worked so hard to obtain, had to be sacrificed. The land and house were sold to Rev. Lyerly on July 1, 1906 for \$1,000.00. The deed records this information about the transaction in book 110, page 550 "and the said elders of Mount Hope German Reformed Church have been legally authorized to sell and convey the aforesaid tract of land by a majority vote of the members of said church." Milo Roseman, Henderson A. Stirewalt, and George H. Pless, Elders of Mt. Hope German Reformed Church to Rev. J. M. L. Lyerly, containing 70 acres. The deed was registered December 29, 1906.

Not all of this \$1,000.00 was due on the pastor's salary of course. We do not know today just how much it was. We do know that on March 25, 1917, the Consistory authorized Mr. M. T. Roseman "to see Rev. Dr. Lyerly and collect a part or all of his note due the church on parsonage land, to be used in the repairing of the church." On December 1, 1917, our books indicate that "Milo T. Roseman, trustee of Mt. Hope Church, received balance due on parsonage land which was six hundred and ninety three dollars and sixty cents (\$693.60). After deducting his note of that he held against the Consistory of seventy three dollars and ninety cents (\$73.90) leaves a balance of six hundred and nineteen dollars and seventy cents. Milo T. Roseman, trustee of Mt. Hope Church taken a certificate for the amount of \$619.70 at the Salisbury Bank and Trust Co."

Thus ended an era in the life of Mt. Hope Church.



## CHANGES IN THE CHARGE

In May, 1906, at the meeting of the Classis, Mt. Hope and Bethany Churches were set apart as the Crescent Charge. St. Luke's, Grace, and Ursinus Churches now became the East Rowan Charge. This arrangement continued with Dr. Lyerly as pastor through 1908. Then on January 9, 1909, Rev. A. S. Peeler transferred from the St. John's Classis of Central Synod to N. C. Classis. A call came to him from the Crescent Charge for pastor. He was installed by Revs. J. L. Yearick, C. B. Heller, and P. M. Trexler. Rev. Peeler remained pastor only until January 1, 1910, when a realignment of the charge occurred. At the adjourned special meeting of Classis on July 1, 1909, Bethany became part of the Faith Charge. Mt. Hope was to be attached to the Gilead Charge. This report was given by J. L. Murphy and J. D. Andrew. It was to be effective at the close of the present pastoral year, meaning December 31, 1909. Thus on January 1, 1910, Mt. Hope became part of the Gilead Charge, which included New Gilead, Keller, and Mt. Hope Churches and were supplied in 1910 by Rev. P. M. Trexler. Then in 1911, the Gilead Charge received Rev. Dugan C. Cox as pastor. He was originally of the Friends denomination and had transferred into the Reformed Church. He pastored the Gilead Charge only the one year of 1911. The years of 1912, 1913, and 1914 saw the charge as being vacant. Revs. C. B. Heller and William H. Causey were supplies. Finally in 1914, Mt. Hope requested of Classis a reconstruction of the charge. This was done in 1915. Page 26 of the 1915 minutes says "your committee appointed a year ago to confer with the joint consistories of the Faith Charge and the Gilead Charge in respect to the overture from Mt. Hope congregation for reconstruction of these pastoral charges, held a meeting in Mt. Hope Church on July 2, 1914. Seven Elders and six Deacons were present. The Gilead and Keller churches were not represented, but they had informed the committee that whatever action should be taken by the committee would be satisfactory with them. After due and prayerful deliberation a resolution was unanimously passed to detach Mt. Hope congregation from the Gilead Charge and unite it with the Faith Charge." Also then in 1915, Harvey A. Welker became pastor of Shiloh, Grace, and Mt. Hope Churches, which then made up the Faith Charge. His pastorate extended from March 1, 1915 to February 29, 1923. He was known as a good preacher and an excellent singer. He sang many solos in Mt. Hope Church, and he often played the organ as well as preach. It was said of him that he enjoyed coming to Mt. Hope, because the church liked to sing. By virtue of his own ability to sing, an announcement that Rev. Welker would sing at a certain service often meant practically a "full house" to hear him, so we are told according to tradition. We note from the treasurer's records that Rev. Welker's salary from Mt. Hope in 1917 was \$13.75 per month.

During these early years of the 1900's Mr. Charlie Sides served as Sunday School superintendent at Mt. Hope. Mrs. Retta Howe Bostian was organist and taught Sunday School from about 1909-1917. Mrs. Worth Rodgers then was the organist to the early 1920's. Mr. Theodore A. P. Roseman gave the clock still used today in the church.

## THE CHURCH IS REMODELED

During Rev. Welker's pastorate, another step in remodeling was undertaken. In 1918 an extensive remodeling program was begun. A congregational meeting on February 10, 1918, was held to elect a committee for the remodeling. The committee was composed of Will Casper, W. E. Beaver, and W. M. Rodgers. The remodeling included raising the chancel area one step higher. The chancel was originally only one step higher than the auditorium itself. This now made the chancel two steps above floor level. The work also included a new roof on the church, complete re-painting, and general clean up. In one of the old record books, a number of receipts were found which help us determine the materials purchased and the extent of the remodeling. Pinned together are 19 receipts totaling \$384.58 which probably reflects the majority of the work done. The receipts cover brick, lumber, nails, paint, and stain. It also included a new carpet for the church of 56 yards for the sum of \$37.80 from Oestreicher's of Salisbury. One interesting receipt is the following: The men who painted the church were Mr. Will Fesperman, Mr. Murrell Stirewalt, Mr. M. R. Weaver, Mr. W. E. Beaver, and Mr. W. M. Rodger. The receipt notes that Mr. Rodgers was paid 50 cents extra for bringing his ladder. The total labor of these men for painting was \$61.50.

It seems also that in the matter of re-roofing the church, that a tin roof was put on the church, but apparently was unsatisfactorily and was shortly replaced by another new roof of shingles.

In this remodeling on page 101 of the treasurer's records we note that \$27.88 was paid out to Rev. H. A. Welker for a communion set and baptismal font on August 4, 1918.

## THE YEARS OF WORLD WAR I AND FOLLOWING

In 1918 the following record is given of the men who served in government service in World War I, and all these men received honorable discharges.

Roy Pless — January 12, 1918-January 13, 1919

Henry Roseman — July 26, 1918-December 21, 1918

Murrell Stirewalt — September 7, 1918-December 11, 1918

Fred A. Sides — August 24, 1918-January 6, 1919

Another item of interest during World War I was the fact that for one year the church had a field of cotton just below the cemetery, proceeds of which was for the benefit of the church. Both Mr. and Mrs. George Pless helped tend this field of cotton. Mr. Pless helped break the ground and Mrs. Pless helped hoe the crop.

16 <sup>17</sup> ~~James~~ <sup>James</sup> During the summers of 1923 and 1924, students Sidney Safrit and Tommy Safrit supplied Mt. Hope Church. Sidney Safrit preached his first sermon in Mt. Hope on June 24, 1923. His text was "And he lifted up his eyes and looked on the field and it was already white to harvest."

During the 1920's Mr. Adolphus Casper was serving as Sunday School superintendent.

On January 1, 1925, Rev. J. D. Andrew became pastor of the Faith Charge and of Mt. Hope Church. He preached his first sermon at Mt. Hope on January 11, 1925, at 3 P. M. He was installed as pastor of the charge on February 22, 1925 at 2:30 P. M. at Mt. Hope Church. Rev. C. W. Warlick preached the sermon and Rev. B. J. Peeler installed Rev. J. D. Andrew as pastor of the Faith Charge. Elder Berry Wagner gave the charge to the pastor. A large crowd was present for this service. Dr. J. C. Leonard in his history states that one of the jobs sorely needed in the charge at this time was pastoral visitation, which service Dr. Andrew did with distinction. In the next six years to follow the relations between pastor and people were at an all time high. Each family was visited in each congregation several times a year. During his pastorate, more than 50 members were received at Mt. Hope church, either by confirmation or letter of transfer. He held catechetical or confirmation classes each year. One of the fine classes held was in the year 1930 when a class was started on August 25th with 34 people present. On August 26th, 45 were present and on August 27th, 48 were present. The above information was taken from Dr. J. D. Andrew's diary, which has been a wonderful source of information on this period of Mt. Hope's history.

During this time, Mt. Hope began to develop one of the best choirs in her history. With Martin R. Weaver as choir director, this choir won top honors several times in the singing conventions which were popular in those days in this area. At one choir practice, Rev. Andrew noted in his diary that 34 were present on a weekday night for rehearsal. Rev. Andrew loved to sing himself. He would sing and encourage everyone to sing during services. Sometimes after services, he would remain for an hour or so and practice with the choir. During his pastorate, a piano was purchased in April of 1925. The old organ was gradually retired from service and sold.

The diary of Mr. Andrew again tells us that during the week long meetings held yearly at Mt. Hope, the church would often be full when the services were conducted. Guest speakers often included Revs. H. A. Fesperman, B. J. Peeler, and A. C. Peeler.

The first Elder of the church to be elected Elder Emeritus was Mr. Henderson Stirewalt, this being done on January 8, 1928.

Mr. Andrew is remembered also for a motto that he often quoted during his ministry, which was "Do what you can with what you have where you are today." He also had the distinction of having preached in every Reformed Church in N. C. at that time. We note also that his salary from Mt. Hope at that time was \$31.66 per month.

Rev. Andrew's pastorate closed in 1931. He was well loved by the people of his churches. May he have received his great reward for his tireless labor in the Christian ministry. He began his ministerial labors when he was licensed on May 6, 1893. He was ordained July 30, 1893, by Revs. G. W. Welker, J. C. Clapp, and J. C. Leonard. During his lifetime, he also served as president of Catawba College when it was located at Newton, N. C.

## THE WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS BEGIN

1938

14 The next pastor to come to Mt. Hope was Rev. Roy C. Whisenhunt, who became pastor of the Faith Charge in June, 1931. This was his first charge after being graduated from Central Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. He was licensed May 7, 1930 and ordained June 28, 1931 by Rev. B. J. Peeler, A. K. Faust, and Elder J. W. Peeler. He was yet a single man when entering this parish, but was married during his stay in the Faith Charge.

These were the days when the country was struggling to rise above the depression and its difficulties. Rev. Whisenhunt worked with the young people of the community, being interested in their affairs in relation to sports and similar activities. He held morning services at Mt. Hope during the summer months, which were the first morning services to be held in the church.

Mr. Martin Weaver and Mr. Walter Pless served as Superintendents of the Sunday School during the late 20's and early 30's.

One humorous item of interest in the history of Mt. Hope Church is told to us by the pastor, Rev. Whisenhunt. In the early pastorate of Rev. Whisenhunt, he was called upon to baptize an infant baby girl. This was the first baptism by this pastor in this his first parish. The baptism was in one of our summer months, and the parents were Mr. and Mrs. Will Casper of China Grove. The baptismal service was held and after the baptism, Rev. Whisenhunt thought that he had not called the name of the baby at the time of baptism. The child's name was Sadie Monteese Casper, so this pastor, feeling that this family might feel somewhat offended, said he was sorry he had failed to call the baby's name, and asked the parents to present the baby again for baptism, which they gladly did. In the meantime, the baby's sister had taken Sadie out in the church yard to play, so we stopped the church service, and Mrs. Casper went to the window and called for the sister to bring the child back to the parents, who in turn presented it again to the altar for baptism. The pastor led them through the complete baptismal service again. This time he emphasized in a loud voice, "We hereby baptize Sadie Monteese Casper." After the second baptismal service was completed, and the congregation was very quiet, Mrs. Casper looked up at the pastor and said "You called her name the first time." That was an experience that neither the congregation, nor the pastor, nor the parents of this girl would ever forget. Years later Sadie Casper, now married, had Rev. Whisenhunt baptize her child in keeping with this peculiar experience of her baptism.

Perhaps the most notable achievement during this period of time was the organizing of the Women's Missionary Society, which occurred on January 24, 1937. From the first book of minutes of this group, we learn the following: "The women and girls of Mt. Hope Evangelical and Reformed Church met in joint session for the purpose of organizing a Women's Missionary Society and a Girl's Missionary Guild.

Mrs. R. C. Whisenhunt called the meeting to order and after conducting a brief worship service, she asked Mrs. Harvey Jones of Shiloh Church, Faith, to tell of the work at Faith.

Then Mrs. Whisenhunt introduced Mrs. Robert Patterson of Bethany Church, who in a most interesting and effective way presented the work



of the Woman's Missionary Society and Girl's Missionary Guild. After which the girls decided to discuss the matter by themselves.

Mrs. R. C. Whisenhunt presided for the girls and Mrs. Robert Patterson presided for the women.

A vote was taken and carried to organize a Women's Missionary Society, followed by election of officers. Those elected were President, Mrs. W. M. McCombs; Vice President, Mrs. Roy Ward; Secretary, Miss Clara McCombs; Treasurer, Mrs. S. A. Funderburk. Thankoffering Secretary, Mrs. M. H. Stirewalt; Christian Citizenship Secretary, Mrs. M. L. Yost; Membership, Mrs. Roy Ward; Memorial Secretary, Mrs. Ruth Atwell.

The charter members of the Woman's Missionary Society were: Mrs. W. M. McCombs, Mrs. Roy Ward, Miss Clara McCombs, Mrs. S. A. Funderburk, Mrs. Ruth Atwell, Mrs. Dallie Meyers, Mrs. M. L. Yost, Mrs. M. H. Stirewalt, Miss Ila McCombs, and Mrs. G. M. Shuping.

At the March, 1937, meeting the Girl's Guild and Woman's Missionary Society held a joint installation service, with Mrs. R. S. Patterson presiding.

During Rev. Whisenhunt's pastorate, white parament cloths were given by the Will McCombs Family.

Rev. Whisenhunt ended his pastorate on March 15, 1938. *to 1944*

The next pastor of Mt. Hope Church was Rev. Lonnie A. Carpenter, *22* He was graduated from the Theological Seminary at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1938. He was licensed on May 31, 1938 and ordained June 5, 1938. He also commenced his pastorate in the Faith Charge on June 5, 1938. The ordaining committee was composed of Revs. W. W. Rowe, H. R. Carpenter, and Elder Perry A. Carpenter.

In 1940 a committee was appointed to look into the matter of new pews for the church. Those appointed were G. M. Shuping, Walter Pless, and Ivan Funderburk, H. H. Stirewalt, and the pastor. Over \$500.00 was already on hand for this purpose, and more funds were to be solicited after September 14, 1941. The pews were purchased from the Paige Church Furniture Co. in Albemarle and installed in the church. *views*

Wooden offering plates to match the pews were made and given to the church by Mr. G. M. Shuping.

In 1940 electric lights were installed in the church when rural electrification came through.

A church newsletter was published during Rev. Carpenter's pastorate called "The Echo." It was started in 1943 to be sent to all the membership, including those away working in defense plants and those in the armed services.

Rev. Carpenter had been single when entering this church, but was married during this pastorate.

Rev. Carpenter's pastorate ended in May of 1944.

As he left this pastorate, Shiloh became a self supporting church, and Lower Stone Church and Mt. Hope remained together as a two church charge.

## MEN IN WORLD WAR II FROM MT. HOPE

During the war years of World War II, the following served from Mt. Hope Church in the armed forces of our country. This information comes from a "Sketch of Military Service Of The Men who Served in World War II" which was read at the Homecoming Day Service on August 11, 1946.

Everett L. Atwell FS 1/c — U. S. Navy, Served on U.S.S. Augusta, and U.S.S. Williamson — Most of his duty was in the Pacific Theatre of the war.

P.F.C. David B. Beaver — U. S. Army, served 21 months in the Philippines and was wounded twice. He was awarded the Purple Heart Medal.

Cpl. Herman E. Beaver — U. S. Marines, served from May 30, 1945 to July 1, 1946, remained in the U. S.

P.F.C. Martin H. Casper — U. S. Army, served in Europe and Philippines, Received Combat Infantry's Badge, Service Medal with one Bronze Service Star, Asiatic Pacific Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal.

Pvt. William R. T. Eagle — U. S. Army, served over 16 months, received a medical discharge January 5, 1945.

P.F.C. Ivan B. Funderburk — U. S. Army, served in 182nd Field Art. and 90 Inf. Div. and participated in D. Day and European invasion. Received Bronze Service Arrowhead, 5 battle stars, Good Conduct Medal, E.T.O., American Theatre and the Victory Ribbons.

Sgt. Edgar Holt — U. S. Army, Third Airforce — was ground crew mechanic and later crew chief, serving B 29 airplanes. Remained in the United States.

J. P. Horton S 1/c — U. S. Navy, served on U.S.S. Stokes AKA68. Received American Asiatic, Pacific and World War II Victory Medals.

Cpl. Carl R. Weaver — U. S. Army, served in Paratroopers, saw combat in Mediterranean area and African campaign.

P.F.C. Claude C. Weaver — U. S. Army, served in European combat, received Good Conduct Medal, three battle stars for Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Germany.

P.F.C. J. Elmer Weaver — U. S. Army, served in Paratroopers, captured by Germans and imprisoned 3½ months until liberated by British in April 16, 1945.

Jack C. Weaver S 2/E — U. S. Navy, trained in Camp Perry, Va. and New London, Conn.

Pvt. Harold B. Weaver — U. S. Army, served in Paratroopers, saw action in Italy, France, and Germany. Gave his life in Germany, on Feb. 6, 1945.

P.F.C. Adam S. Linker — U. S. Army, 29th Infantry Guard Co., Rifleman. Went overseas Aug. 15, 1944 and was wounded near Metz,

France Nov. 15, 1944. Received Purple Heart and discharged at Fort Bragg Nov. 7, 1945.

Carl Beaver — U. S. Army

### **Later members of Mt. Hope in the Armed Services.**

Pvt. Carl L. Deal, Jr. — U. S. Army, served in Europe 4th Inf. Div. One battle star, Medical discharge, 18 months service.

Cpl. Jack L. McSwain — U. S. Army, served in Europe, 5 battle stars, 3 years service, honorable discharge.

Lynn F. Simpson — U. S. Navy Sea Bees, served 6 months in States. Medical discharge.

Melvin E. Vanderford — U. S. Navy, served 2 years in Pacific aboard Battleship U.S.S. Wisconsin.

Ralph T. Vanderford — U. S. Army, 38 months service. Asiatic Pacific medal with 4 bronze service stars. Philippine Liberation Ribbon with 2 bronze service stars. Good conduct medal. World War II Victory Medal.

Staff Sgt. Jackson D. Powell — U. S. Army, 26 months, E.T.O. 8th Inf. Div., Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Germany, Combat Inf. Badge. Good Conduct Medal, Purple Heart, 3 battle stars, 80th Div. Citation Medal, World War II Victory Medal.

Cpl. J. Lee Schenck — U. S. Army, 87th Inf. Div., Served in Germany. Entered January, 1943 and discharged May, 1945.

Pvt. Calvin L. Honeycutt — U. S. Army, served in England and Germany. In Medics Corps and then Mechanics School. Served 3 years.

Fred Trammell — U. S. Navy Sea Bees, served 31 months in Pacific, mostly. 1 Battle Star.

Arlie B. Linker, F.A. — U. S. Navy, entered active service on July, 10, 1951, served on U.S.S. Cape Esperance TCVE-88 and discharged May, 13, 1952.

Cpl. Ralph Horton — U. S. Army, Artillery, stationed in Alaska, Korean Medal — 1951-1953.

Ray Horton S 1/c — U. S. Navy, California and Alaska—1951-1954. Good Conduct Medal, Korean Conflict Medal.

Sgt. David Horton — U. S. Army, 13 months. Signal Corps. Served in Korea.

H. Kermit Horton — U. S. Army, 13 months. Korean Conflict, Medical discharge.

### **Present members of Mt. Hope Church in the Armed Services**

Staff Sgt. Billy O. Casper — U. S. Army, stationed at Ft. Riley, Kansas

Carl M. Casper SP 5 — U. S. Army stationed at Ft. Bragg, N. C.





The Women's Guild of Mt. Hope Church When Organized in 1948



## *The Church*

The church had stood for many years  
Its need was much repair  
Concern was deep and love was great  
In the hearts who worshipped there.

The books were read and reports showed,  
The membership was small,  
The treasure low, the pastor to pay  
No funds for anything at all.

The carpet worn so near thread bare  
The floor and pews were marred  
The pulpit chair had long been patched  
Which no one could disregard.

The roof was bad and could not stop  
The rain from coming in,  
So many things to be done  
Just where should we begin.

The choir confused by Hymnals torn  
You might have heard some brother  
Singing words from one Hymn  
While the organ played another.

It's true an effort must be made,  
To save our church, no doubt.  
And raise an interest on the part  
Of all our members so devout

Meetings were held and donations were made  
To start a building fund  
A venture in faith, we organized,  
And the project was begun.

New shingles on the roof were laid  
New carpet was installed  
New pulpit chairs replaced the old  
New paint put on the wall,

An electric organ was purchased, and  
New Hymnals too were bought.  
New choir robes and many things were fulfilled,  
Which we had sought.

The hut was built upon the land  
For fellowship and meeting,  
And there in view the parsonage stands  
Which working hands completed.

We will be blessed by time so spent,  
To help to pay the bill.  
The men agree; They couldn't have done so much,  
Without the Women's Guild.

We admire the men for what they do  
They work with such good-will.  
But they'd never get to Heaven at all,  
Without the Women's Guild.

Written by:  
MRS. CLAUDE WOODIE

## THE YEARS OF 1945-1948

### YEARS OF PROGRESS 1947

21 Beginning on the date of September 27, 1945, Rev. Milton Whitener became pastor of the church. During this time after World War II, the desire to add educational rooms to the church became the pressing need of the congregation. Early in the year of 1947 the decision to build was made and a building committee was appointed. The committee was as follows: G. M. Shuping, Chairman; Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Holt, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Eagle, Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Funderburk, Mr. Martin Weaver, and Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Davis.

In February, 1947, logs were cut and a building fund started. The men of the church decided to build the rooms, doing their own work wherein possible. As a result a year later a building of seven rooms and basement were built and completed and ready for dedication at a cost of near \$3,000.00.

Another interesting memory from these times was the occasion of the Homecoming of September, 1947. Due to rain, the picnic dinner was spread in the unfinished rooms of the educational building, the men pushing the lumber aside, as the building had only a roof at that time. The group enjoyed the meal under the roof during a hard rain.

Along at this same time, the Women's Guild was organized in November of 1947. Mrs. Hal Hoyle and Mrs. John Fesperman and Mrs. James A. Shuford met with the women on a cold Sunday afternoon. The women remember chunking the fire in the heater in the church as they sat around the stove for the meeting. The Women's Guild officially began their program and work in January of 1948. The purpose of the Women's Guild was to unite all women of the church in Christian fellowship and with divine help and guidance, to develop an understanding of the work of the entire church, to deepen spiritual life, stimulate sacrificial giving and promote Christian service in the home, the local church, the community, the nation, and the world. The motto of the Women's Guild was "A place for every woman and every woman in her place." The Women's Guild replaced the earlier women's organization. The charter members of the Guild were Mrs. Hubert Davis, Mrs. Ruth Atwell, Miss Lucille Grant, now Mrs. Clyde Eagle, Mrs. Russell Eagle, Mrs. Jack Eagle, Mrs. Murrel Funderburk, Mrs. Edgar Holt, Mrs. L. L. Horton, Mrs. J. C. Linker, and Mrs. Lee Schenck.

The first officers of the Women's Guild were Mrs. Hubert Davis, President; Mrs. Jack Eagle, Vice President; Miss Lucille Grant, Secretary; and Mrs. Edgar Holt, Treasurer. The Department Chairmen were as follows: Education, Mrs. Lee Schenck; Christian Citizenship, Mrs. Ruth Atwell; Social Service, Mrs. Edgar Holt; Spiritual Life, Mrs. Murrel Funderburk; Stewardship, Mrs. Russell Eagle; Missionary, Mrs. Grace Casper; Thankoffering, Mrs. Jack Eagle; Membership, Mrs. Ivan Funderburk.

The new educational building was attached directly to the rear of the sanctuary and was dedicated on Homecoming Sunday on May 30, 1948. The service that day also included the laying of the cornerstone and dedi-



**Mt. Hope Church as it appeared after educational rooms were added in 1947-1948.**

cation of other memorials. Details from the bulletin of that service tell us the following. The building was dedicated in memory of Pvt. Harold Brown Weaver, son of Mr. Martin R. Weaver and the late Mrs. Maggie Weaver. Harold was born June 6, 1923 and died in the service of his country in Bergstein, Germany, February 7, 1945. He entered military service at Fort Bragg on February 11, 1943 and trained at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky; and Shreveport, Louisiana. He transferred to the paratroopers and received further training at Fort Benning, Georgia, and left for overseas in September, 1944. He served in Italy, France, and Germany.

At the morning service, Rev. Terrell Shoffner preached the sermon on "Religion, Form or Force." Rev. Shoffner was the supply pastor at this time. Rev. Whitener had concluded his pastorate as of December 31, 1947, and Rev. Terrell Shoffner supplied Mt. Hope from January, 1948 to June 30, 1948. 25

Following the dinner held on the church grounds, the cornerstone service was held at 2 P. M. and featured Rev. Roy Whistenhunt as speaker, who had a sermonette. Rev. Shoffner was in charge of the laying of the cornerstone, and Rev. Milton Whitener read the service of dedication for the building. The dedication sermon was then preached by Rev. Lonnie Carpenter. Special dedications followed the sermon. The altar, the pulpit Bible, the church bell, and the piano were dedicated. Again the bulletin of the service tells us of this information. Through the thoughtfulness of Mr. and Mrs. Murrel Funderburk and the generosity of St. John's Lutheran Church near Concord, the altar has been placed in our church. It is given in memory of our loved ones who have preceded us in death, and we dedicate it to the Triune God. 25

The new pupit Bible of the King James Version is a gift from Mr. and Mrs. George M. Shuping in memory of Mr. Shuping's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Milo J. Shuping.

The church bell is a gift from Mr. and Mrs. George H. Pless in memory of Mr. Pless's parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. Jeremiah Pless.

The piano for the Junior Sunday School is a gift from the children of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel A. Funderburk, and is dedicated to their grandchildren — Margaret, Myron, Ray, Johnny, and Troy.

The desk in the hallway of the church was the personal desk of Mr. G. M. Shuping, which was bought at his sale and brought to the church for use.

Mrs. G. M. Shuping organized a Young Married Women's Class in 1946.

The year of 1948 was the occasion of another group of memorials to be given to the church. The second Sunday in October, 1948 was set aside as World Wide Communion Sunday. At that service the following memorials were dedicated for the purpose of worship in the church. A cross, candlesticks, and altar paraments were dedicated. The cross was a gift of the Will Casper family in memory of their wife and mother, Mrs. Mary Casper. The candlesticks were in memory of Mrs. Dicie Vanderford and in honor of Mr. V. T. Vanderford. The altar paraments were dedicated in memory of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Castor by their children. The vases were a gift of the Martin R. Weaver Family and in memory of Mrs. Maggie Casper Weaver.

Mrs. Maggie Weaver had also become a member of the Women's Guild in memorium by her daughter, Mrs. Russell Eagle in 1948.

Mr. George H. Pless was elected Elder Emeritus for life to the Consistory.

During the same year, the church grounds were graded and seeded at the cost of \$127.41 in October.

In November, 1948 a forced hot water heating system was installed in the new educational building. The heating system was paid for in about one year at the cost of \$3,400.00.

A new roof was also put on the church in 1948.

Another memory from these times is the polio ban during 1948 when a bad polio epidemic broke out, and children were not allowed to attend public meetings for some time.

2-3 <sup>beginning</sup> In 1950 Student Frank Snider came to us as a student supply. He preached three times per month, and Rev. J. L. Levens came to Mt. Hope once a month to do the jobs that an unlicensed preacher could not do. At this time Lower Stone and Mt. Hope were a charge and Lower Stone was building a parsonage. Lower Stone would supply the parsonage to the next pastor, and each church pay one half of the salary of the pastor. The charge was to try to secure a full time pastor by 1951.

A Bible School was held by student Frank Snider for the first time at Mt. Hope while he was supply.



The year 1950 began with services held always on Sunday mornings, rather than in the evenings as done many times in the past.

In August, 1950, the Consistory decided to have 1000 bulletins with the picture of the church printed at the cost of \$18 or \$19. At this time we changed from an eight man Consistory to a twelve man Consistory in order to have equal number of voting members with Lower Stone.

In June, 1951, Rev. Lloyd Sechriest became pastor of the Lower Stone Charge, serving the two churches, Lower Stone and Mt. Hope. He was graduated from the Theological Seminary in May 23, 1951 and ordained at Heidelberg Church, Thomasville, on May 25, 1951. A group went from Lower Stone and Mt. Hope to see him ordained in Thomasville. Rev. Sechriest was installed as pastor in his first charge on June 3, 1951 at Lower Stone Church. 24

During the late summer an outdoor bulletin board of brick was erected by the men of the church, and the name of the church was inscribed in large letters on either side of the board facing the highway in both directions.

In 1951 a new constitution was written for the church by Rev. Sechriest, Ray Mault, and Hubert Davis.

A Youth Fellowship group was organized during Rev. Sechriest's pastorate.

A new deep well was drilled in 1952, the first well of 1949, being unsatisfactory.

Mr. Jesse C. Linker was elected Elder Emeritus in October of 1952.

A number of men from Mt. Hope Church met on Saturday night, May 10th, 1952, to organize a chapter of the "Churchmen's Brotherhood." Mr. Ray Mault was elected President with Ralph Vanderford as Vice President. Mr. Lee Schenck was elected Secretary and Ivan Funderburk as treasurer. The men decided to meet on the second Sunday night of each month at 7 P. M. They began with 20 members enrolled. They were Rev. Lloyd Sechriest, J. C. Linker, Ivan Funderburk, Arlie Linker, L. L. Horton, J. B. Eagle, Carl Deal, Jr., Carl Beaver, Clifford Beaver, Luther Casper, Roy G. Pless, Calvin Honeycutt, George Pless, Homer Funderburk, Samuel Funderburk, John L. Funderburk, Ray Mault, Billy Pless, M. R. Weaver, and Perry Suttle.

## ANOTHER BUILDING PROGRAM

The next building program at Mt. Hope Church began to develop during this time with the desire for more adequate space for social functions at the church. Thus in 1951 and 52 plans were made for the erection of a church hut or fellowship building including a kitchen. As early as October 14, 1951, a congregational meeting was held when members voted 10 to 1 to start building a new hut. The Consistory had chosen Mr. Edison Rhyner as chairman of the building committee. The different organizations of the church were asked to choose a delegate to serve on this committee for the project. 25

Again, the men of the church built the building by doing their own work. Timber was cut from the church property for the lumber needed. A brick building 28' by 60' with a 12' by 20' kitchen was decided upon and funds for this purpose were solicited in the following way. Donations for materials were received for brick, sand, and cement. A total of 17,410 bricks were purchased by 28 families and one organization of the church, The Women's Guild. The Guild bought 2000 bricks and a number of families purchased 1000 bricks apiece. Pledges were also taken for payment of laying the bricks at a total of \$630.00. Other donations were given for celotex and plumbing. The total cost of the building amounted to \$4,715.53. The building was completed by 1953 and ready for dedication on September 13, 1953, Homecoming Sunday. The hut was dedicated by Rev. Dr. Aaron Tosh, then President of Southern Synod, and the guest speaker was Dr. A. Odell Leonard. Liturgist was Rev. Mr. George Bricker of Waynesboro, Pennsylvania.



**Church Hut — Built 1951-1953**

The first meal served in the building was the Easter morning breakfast, April 5, 1953.

The Women's Guild furnished the kitchen with the purchase of a stove, sink, and cabinets. The floor covering for the restrooms was donated and installed by Mr. Jerry Ritchie of the China Grove Hardware Company.

Immediately following the dedication of the hut, the next Sunday, September 20, 1953, a trial sermon was held by Rev. John Chatlos, who was under consideration for pastor of the charge. Rev. Chatlos was extended a call by the charge on October 4, 1953, and was installed at Mt. Hope Church on Sunday, November 15, 1953, by Rev. Huitt R. Carpenter. The sermon was given by the Rev. Carl T. Daye.

## IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CHURCH

The following year on Homecoming Sunday, September 26, 1954, a now Consonata electronic organ was dedicated as a memorial to the late Rev. John Ingle for his faithful pastorate at Mt. Hope Church from the year 1878 to 1882. Present at this service was a representative of the Ingle Family, Attorney John J. Ingle of Winston-Salem, N. C., who had a part in the service.

A fund was started the previous week to purchase new Evangelical and Reformed Hymnals. Mrs. Russell Eagle was treasurer, and members were asked to purchase a hymnal. One hundred Hymnals were ordered and placed in use in the church at a cost of \$177.00.

The concrete sidewalks were laid around the church buildings in 1954.

In 1955 some remodeling was done to the chancel area of the sanctuary. A baptismal font was given in memory of V. T. Vanderford and his wife, Dicie Vanderford by their children. The lectern was given in honor of Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Funderburk by their children, and the pulpit and chancel railing were given by the Churchmen's Brotherhood in honor of Rev. John C. Chatlos. The chancel chairs were placed beside the altar, one dedicated in honor of the first Women's Guild president, Mrs. Hubert Davis; and the other chair was placed in memory of the deceased members of the Guild, Mrs. Mary Ervin, Mrs. Dicie Vanderford, and Mrs. Maggie Weaver. The hymnboard was purchased by the Youth Fellowship and dedicated in honor of Mr. Lynn Simpson.

In December, 1955, a new Pulpit Bible of the Revised Standard Version was given to the church in memory of Mr. Jesse C. Linker and Mr. George M. Shuping by their wives.

The Churchmen's Brotherhood furnished new robes for the choir at the cost of \$127.00 and were first used at the Christmas service of 1955. These were probably the first choir robes used in the history of the church.

In September of 1956 a new carpet was installed in the church for approximately \$1,600.00. The carpet where the altar stands was dedicated in honor of Mrs. Murrel Funderburk. In 1956 Mrs. Lynn Simpson organized a children's choir for the church. She also became organist and director of music for the church. Up to this time, Mrs. Grace Casper had served as pianist-organist for about 40 years. She had started playing for church services in the 1920's when she was 14 years old. The present organists today are Mr. Leonard Deal and Miss Elaine Funderburk.

In April 25, 1957, Mt. Hope Churchmen's Brotherhood had the honor of being host to the Rowan District Men's Meeting. About 175 men attending this meeting and were served a meal in the church hut. The men's organization also furnished an electric fan for the kitchen costing \$20.00 in 1957 and an electric water cooler for the church in 1958. The men also took out \$1,000 in building and loan shares in 1956.

On May 25, 1957, Miss Mary L. Beaver was recognized as a synodical winner of Group D in the annual stewardship contest of that year. She was presented with a blue seal certificate for this honor.

## ANOTHER PARSONAGE

The greatest step taken by the congregation in 1957 was the decision to build a new parsonage. At a special congregational meeting on Sunday, January 27, 1957, it was voted that Mt. Hope Church make plans for the building of a parsonage while still remaining part of the Lower Stone Charge. The members of the congregation called for this vote after the possibility of Mt. Hope becoming a self-supporting church was discussed at some length during the annual congregational supper meeting on January 13th. The vote was carried by a big majority.

The following members were appointed by the Consistory and the various organizations of the congregation to serve as the parsonage committee: Ray A. Mault, Chairman; Claude Woodie, Vice Chairman; Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Vanderford, Mrs. Lois Holt, and Carl L. Deal, Jr.

The ground breaking for the parsonage was done Sunday noon, May 12, 1957, following the 11 A. M. worship service. Mr. Ray Mault, chairman of the parsonage committee, turned the first shovelful of ground, with Mr. George H. Pless, oldest member of the congregation turned the second shovelful. Mr. Claude D. Woodie, contractor, furnished the building plans for the parsonage.

An agreement was arranged to exchange some land owned by the church with Mr. Carl Deal, Jr., whose land adjoined the church, so that the most suitable site for a parsonage could be utilized.

The building is a modern seven room ranch type brick veneer structure with a utility room and a carport, which later became an enclosed porch. Most of the bricks for the house was pledged by various members and families of the congregation. A great deal of the materials and labor was furnished by the members. The lumber for the framing of the structure was cut from the church's own property by some of the members.



**Present parsonage at Mt. Hope Church  
Built 1957-1960**



The building fund for the new parsonage was set up February 10, 1957, with Ivan Funderburk elected treasurer. The Women's Guild gave the first money to this treasury which was \$126.46. The amount raised in 1957 was \$2,556.76; 1958. \$1,809.47; 1959, \$2,332.87; 1960, \$1,042.05; 1961, \$200.75. Total for the five years was \$7,941.90.

The Mt. Hope congregation built this parsonage in anticipation of becoming independent of the Lower Stone Charge and becoming a self-supporting congregation.

## THE STEP OF INDEPENDENCE

The Mt. Hope congregation voted to become a self-supporting church on January 25, 1959. This action was to become effective as of July 1, 1959, subject to the approval of Southern Synod. In the congregational vote on this decision, 80 votes were cast, 77 votes for such action and 3 against. The congregation then petitioned Southern Synod to become an independent charge at the spring meeting of the Synod in 1959. Permission was granted by the Synod by unanimous vote. Thus for the first time in her history Mt. Hope was no longer connected with a charge of several churches, but became a single church charge, with a view to seek its own first full time pastor. R.S.

A Junior Youth Fellowship was organized in 1958.

A set of green paraments were purchased in 1959 along with a picture of Christ and presented to the church by the Junior Class of the Sunday School.

Early in 1960 a new roof was placed upon the church, and the posts were removed from inside the sanctuary, and the roof beams were strengthened accordingly. This made for more convenient seating in the sanctuary.

## OUR CHURCH TODAY

<sup>1962</sup>  
On July 1, 1960, Rev. Elmo Beck became the first full time pastor of Mt. Hope Church. He was a graduate of the Theological Seminary at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and Mt. Hope was his first charge. Rev. Beck was installed on July 10, 1960. The installation committee consisted of Dr. Harvey A. Fesperman officiating, and Rev. Melvin Palmer preaching the sermon. The Elder presenting Rev. Beck for installation was Mr. Lynn Simpson, president of the Consistory. Rev. Beck had been ordained at Mt. Tabor Church, Lexington, on June 26, 1960. ib

Near the end of the summer of 1960, the new parsonage was dedicated. The service of dedication took place on September 25, 1960, at 2 P. M. From the bulletin of that service, we learn the following: The junior choir sang the anthem "Bless This House." The congregation assembling on the front lawn of the parsonage witnessed the presentation of the parsonage keys to the pastor by the president of the Consistory, Mr. Lynn Simpson. Following this was the act of dedication and the dedicatory prayer. Thus, the second parsonage in the history of Mt. Hope was commissioned into use.

The Women's Guild purchased the material for the drapes in the new parsonage, and they were made by Mrs. Claude Woodie. The Youth Fellowship as a project purchased a washing machine for the parsonage. They had also paid for a front door for the parsonage in August of 1958.

During his pastorate, Rev. Beck issued a monthly newsletter called "The Messenger" which was circulated among the membership.

In 1961 the Junior Class of the Sunday School purchased a projection screen to be used with the slide and filmstrip projector.

Folding tables were purchased in 1961 by the Women's Guild, Young Adult Sunday School Class, and the Youth Fellowship. Also during this year red stoles were acquired for the church choir and a set of pastor's stoles were made by the ladies of the church.

In the Easter Sunday services of 1962, several dedications were made. The Youth Fellowship presented the church with a new communion set which was dedicated at that time. Along with this, there were new offering plates matching the communion set given to the church as a gift by Mr. and Mrs. Nevin Peeler in honor of their son, Gene, who had made the decision to enter the ministry. These were all appropriately dedicated at that time. These articles were made of the finest aluminum by the Revell-Ware Company.

On June 2, 1962, an all day auction sale and bazaar was held on the church grounds. Much work and effort was put into this project for the purpose of raising money to build a garage for the parsonage. A profit of \$1,000.00 was made that day, which was used later for the building of a garage.

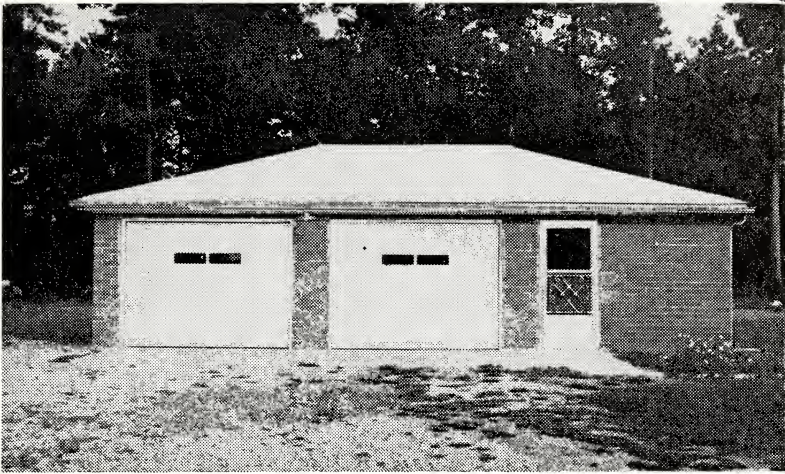
During the year of 1962, the pastor, Rev. Elmo Beck, and Mr. Jack McSwain refinished and reconditioned the old pulpit furniture used years ago in the church. The two chairs and a large seat were then reupholstered locally, the Women's Guild paying for the cost of the material to cover them.

On October 28, 1962, the Rowan District Men's Brotherhood held a special service at Mt. Hope Church for Reformation Day. It was a service celebrating the 445th anniversary of the Reformation; 1517-1962. Rev. Terrell M. Shoffner preached the sermon. About 150 men attended this service.

77  
In October of 1962, Rev. Beck accepted a call to the Jerusalem-St. Peter's Parish at Loganville, Pennsylvania. Rev. Porter Seiwel, chaplain at Catawba College, supplied the church until the next pastor came, Rev. Carl C. Kreps.

78  
On January 1, 1963, Carl C. Kreps became pastor of Mt. Hope Church. He was the former pastor of Bethany and Bethlehem Churches near Winston-Salem. Mt. Hope was his second charge. Mr. Kreps was graduated from Catawba College in 1953 and the Theological Seminary of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1956. He was licensed for the ministry on April 10, 1956, by the Central Pennsylvania Synod and ordained at Trinity Church, Lewis-town, Pennsylvania, on June 7, 1956.

As soon as weather permitted, the men of the church were again busy at work; this time building a garage for the parsonage. In February, 1963,



**The Garage — Built 1963**

logs were again cut from the church property for the garage. The building was laid out 22 feet by 34 feet. A very serviceable brick garage was erected for two cars and a storage room. The work was done by the men of the church. The garage was completed in April of 1963 at a total cost of \$1,050.00. The building committee for this project was as follows: Ivan Funderburk, Chairman; Russell Eagle, Edgar Holt, Ralph Vanderford, and Melvin Vanderford.

A Boy Scout Troop was organized in February of 1963 and chartered as Troop 353 of Uwharrie Council. Five boys started this organization, which grew to 13 boys by the end of the year. Those boys were: Gary Castor, Gene Eagle, Benny Funderburk, Terry Holt, James Hudson, Arnold Powell, Michael Deal, Terry Graham, Terry Deal, Ricky Simpson, Gene Shuffler, Gary Bradshaw, and Joe Brown. The first Scoutmaster was Edgar Holt, Assistant Scoutmasters were Carl Deal, Jr. and Grant Davis. The Troop Committeemen were: J. D. Powell, Chairman; George C. Castor, Jr., Secretary; Ivan Funderburk, Treasurer; Fred Trammell, Camping; Norman Webb, Activities; Jack McSwain, Board of Review; and Hubert Davis, Court of Honor.

At the annual homecoming of 1963, the program consisted in part of the reunion of the old choir of the 1920's and they sang in the service. Attendance was 190 at this service.

During the summer of 1963 a National Youth Caravan visited Mt. Hope for a week to assist the local youth in the Youth Fellowship work. A team of four young people were guests in various homes as they assisted our young people. Jane Munzinger, Caravan leader from Lansdale, Pennsylvania, was a guest in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Schenck and family. Ellen Hopfenthaler, from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was a guest in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack McSwain and family. Susan Johnson, from Darlington, Wisconsin, was a guest in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Funderburk and family. John Syser from Shenandoah, Iowa, was a guest





#### **THE CHOIR OF THE 1920'S AT THE HOMECOMING SERVICE OF 1963**

**Front row, Left to Right: Mrs. S. A. Funderburk, Mrs. George Cruse, Mrs. Henry Stirewalt, Mrs. J. C. Linker, Mrs. Grace Casper.**

**Second row, Left to Right: Mr. Willie Casper, Mrs. Elsie Miller, Mrs. M. H. Stirewalt.**

**Third row, Left to Right: Mr. Blair Wilhelm, Mr. M. H. Stirewalt, Mr. Lee Webb, Mr. Martin Weaver.**

in the parsonage with the pastor and his family. This was the first time a National Youth Caravan had visited at Mt. Hope Church, and their program was highly successful.

Considerable work was done this year in the educational rooms of the church. Some of the rooms were painted by the young people and youth caravan. All rooms were covered with new floor covering. New play equipment for the Kindergarten Class was made and installed by Mr. Roy Hough and Mr. Ivan Funderburk of the congregation. Along with this, an altar was made for the Children's Department for their opening worship. Painting of this equipment was done by Mr. Murrel Funderburk.

In 1964 progress continued at the church with a Children's Choir being organized in the late summer with Mrs. Bobby Goodman, director. About fifteen children participate in this choir. Also new white stoles for the adult choir were made and placed in use. On outside mercury light was installed in the church yard for greater convenience for night activities. The nursery at this time was also refurbished with new cribs and furniture. A folding stairway was also installed in the parsonage.

The Women's Guild was very active this year under the leadership of Mrs. Ivan Funderburk as president. The women of the church provided a



new piano for the sanctuary and a new refrigerator for the kitchen, and also a number of pots and pans for the kitchen in the amount of \$75.

The church ordered and had printed in 1964 new bulletins for use at each Sunday service with a picture and description of the church on the bulletins. The pastor also publishes a quarterly newsletter called "The Mt. Hope Herald" which is circulated among the membership.

As the year 1965 arrived the following were elected as officers to serve the congregation:

## THE CONSISTORY

### Elders

Edgar Holt, President  
Hubert Davis, Recording Secretary  
Carl Deal, Jr., Treasurer  
Lee Schenck  
J. D. Powell

### Deacons

Richard Cooke, Financial Secretary  
Arthur McRorie  
Ray Horton  
Homer Funderburk  
Jack Eagle

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

### Officers

J. D. Powell	Superintendent
Ivan Funderburk	Assistant Superintendent
Ralph Vanderford	Secretary and Treasurer
Richard Cooke	Assistant Secretary and Treasurer
Ray Funderburk	Librarian
Lee K. Powell	Assistant Librarian
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Schenck	Superintendents of the Young People's Dept.
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Horton	Assistant Supt. of the Young People's Dept.
Mrs. Murrel Funderburk	Superintendent of the Children's Department
Mrs. J. D. Powell	Assistant Supt. of the Children's Department

### Teachers

Nursery	Mrs. Ray Horton, Mrs. Kenneth Horton, Miss Elvene McSwain
2 and 3 year olds	Mrs. Melvin Vanderford and Miss Merley McSwain
Kindergarten	Miss Jenny Schenck and Miss Elaine Funderburk
Primary	Mrs. Carl Kreps and Mrs. J. D. Powell
Junior	Mr. Fred Joyner
Senior High	Mrs. Lee Schenck
Young Adult	Rev. Carl Kreps and Mrs. Ralph Horton
Women's Bible Class	Mrs. Edgar Holt and Mrs. Hubert Davis
Men's Bible Class	Mr. Hubert Davis and Mr. Jack McSwain

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Pless were recognized at the start of the current year with 10 years of perfect attendance at Mt. Hope Sunday School.

The Sunday School enrollment is presently 145 and the church roll is 151. The total budget for 1964 was \$7,333.66 with an expected budget of \$7,668.50 for 1965. At present there is \$4,419.42 in the sanctuary building fund.

It is the hope of the church that with the celebrating of the Centennial of Mt. Hope Church — 1865-1965, that in the near future a new sanctuary can be provided for the worship of Almighty God. The present sanctuary has served nobly throughout the 100 years history, which has just been told. It is our prayer and hope that a new building may arise upon the foundations of the first hundred years to serve generations yet unborn. To that end, may Mt. Hope Church continue to serve the people of this



**Interior Mt. Hope Church — Palm Sunday 1965**

community, that the mission of the church may be fulfilled; to proclaim the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, to every person; that spiritual growth may come to maturity in every person's life; and the worship of Almighty God may continue with all fervor in the hearts and minds of the people. May the 100 years history herein recorded of the physical progress of the church reflect the fact that this is done for the purpose that souls might be fed upon the bread of life. To all people who have come and gone in the history of Mt. Hope, and to we who remain in the present generation, may this history be an inspiration and a record of time, talent, and treasure sacrificed to the glory of God and to the church of Jesus Christ.

# MINISTERS WHO SERVED ST. PAUL'S-MT. HOPE CHURCH

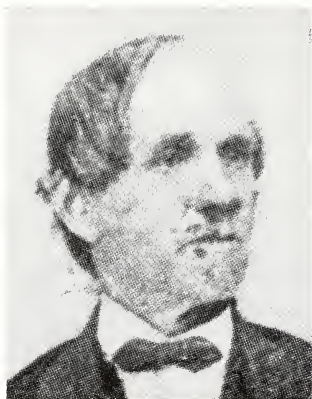
## ST. PAUL'S GERMAN REFORMED CHURCH

Rev. John Lantz.....	1850-1852
Rev. Thornton Butler.....	1853-1865
Rev. Gilbert Lane, Associate with Rev. Butler.....	1856

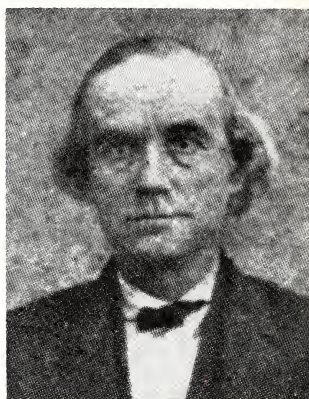
## MT. HOPE CHURCH

Rev. Thornton Butler.....	1865-1869
Rev. J. C. Denny.....	1869-1871
Rev. Peter M. Trexler.....	1871-1877
Rev. John Ingle.....	1878-1883
Rev. Peter M. Trexler, Supply.....	1883-1885
Rev. R. F. Crooks.....	1885-1888
Rev. J. M. L. Lyerly.....	1889-1892
Rev. Paul Barringer and P. M. Trexler, Supplies.....	1892-1893
Rev. J. M. L. Lyerly.....	1893-1908
Rev. A. Samuel Peeler.....	Jan., 1909-Jan. 1, 1910
Rev. P. M. Trexler, Supply.....	1910
Rev. Dugan C. Cox.....	1911
Revs. C. B. Heller and W. H. Causey, Supplies.....	1912, 1913, 1914
Rev. Harvey Welker.....	March 1, 1915-Feb. 29, 1923
Mr. Sidney Safrit } Mr. Tommy Safrit }	Student Supplies ..... Summers of 1923 and 1924
Rev. J. D. Andrew.....	Jan. 1, 1925-1931
Rev. Roy C. Whisenhunt.....	June, 1931-March 15, 1938
Rev. Lonnie A. Carpenter.....	June 5, 1938-May, 1944
Rev. Milton Whitener.....	Sept. 27, 1945-Dec. 31, 1947
Rev. Terrell Shoffner, Supply.....	Jan. 1, 1948-June 30, 1949
Rev. Huitt R. Carpenter, Supply.....	Aug. 28, 1949-Nov. 30, 1949
Rev. J. L. Levens, Supply.....	Jan. 1, 1950-May 31, 1951
Mr. Frank Snider, Student Supply.....	Nov. 1, 1949-May 31, 1951
Rev. Lloyd Sechriest.....	June 1, 1951-May 15, 1953
Mr. Frank Snider, Student Supply.....	May 15, 1953-Oct. 30, 1953
Rev. John C. Chatlos.....	Oct. 30, 1953-June 15, 1959
Rev. Samuel Troxell, Supply.....	June 15, 1959-Dec. 31, 1959
Mr. Joe Wise, Student Supply.....	Jan. 1, 1960-June 31, 1960
Rev. Elmo D. Beck.....	July 1, 1960-Nov. 7, 1962
Rev. Porter Seiwelk, Supply.....	Nov. 1962-Dec. 31, 1962
Rev. Carl C. Kreps.....	Jan. 1, 1963-

*Regular Pastors who served St. Paul's—  
Mt. Hope Church*



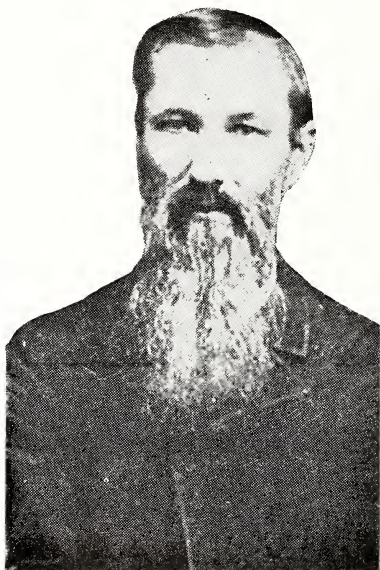
**JOHN LANTZ**  
1850-1852



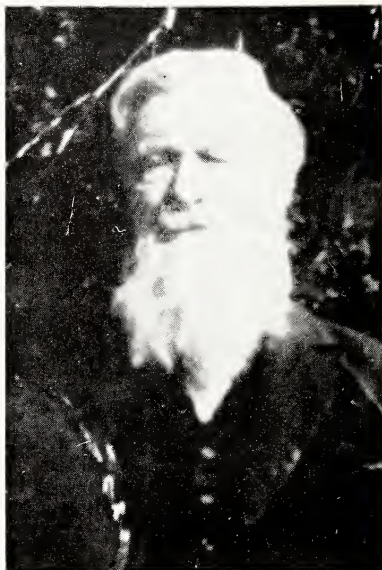
**THORNTON BUTLER**  
1853-1869

**J. C. DENNY**  
1869-1871

Photo unavailable

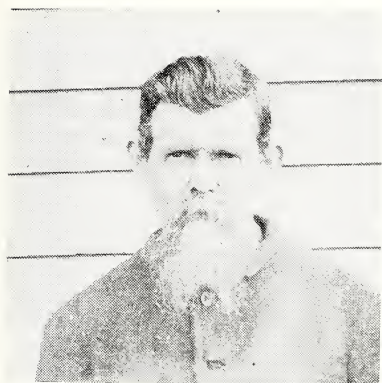


**PETER M. TREXLER**  
1871-1877

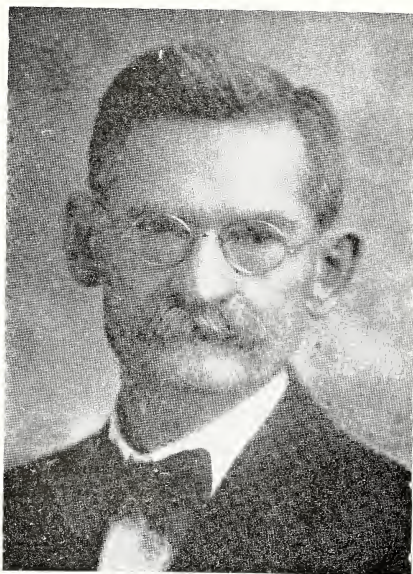


**JOHN INGLE**  
1878-1883





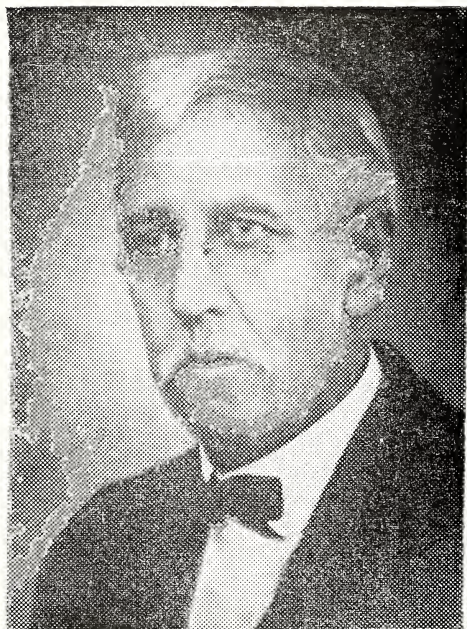
**ROBERT F. CROOKS**  
**1885-1888**



**J. M. L. LYERLY**  
**1889-1908**



**A. SAMUEL PEELER**  
**1909**

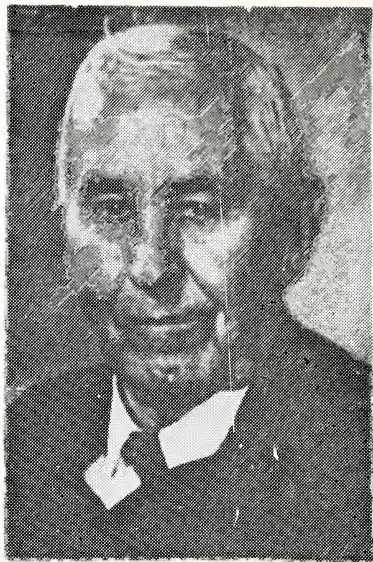


**DUGAN C. COX**  
**1911**

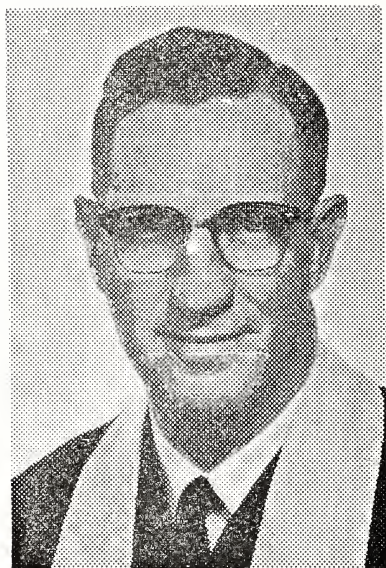




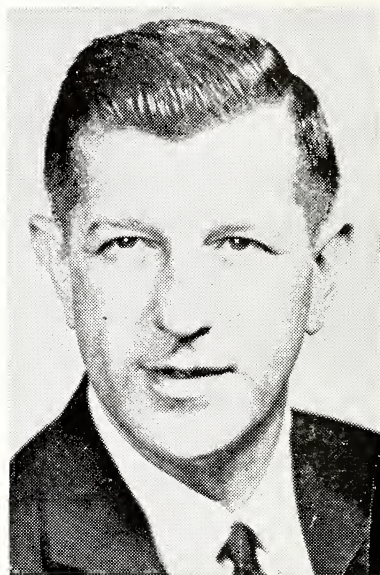
**HARVEY A. WELKER**  
1915-1923



**J. D. ANDREW**  
1925-1931

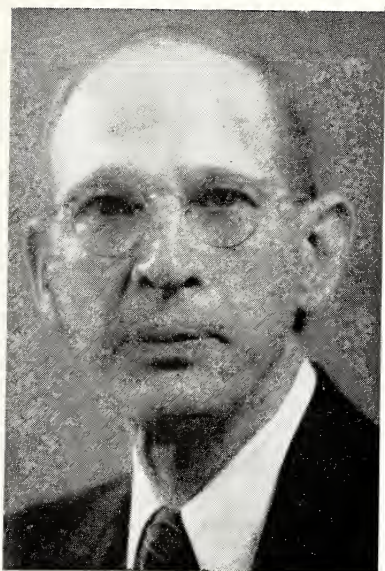


**ROY C. WHISENHUNT**  
1931-1938



**LONNIE A. CARPENTER**  
1938-1944





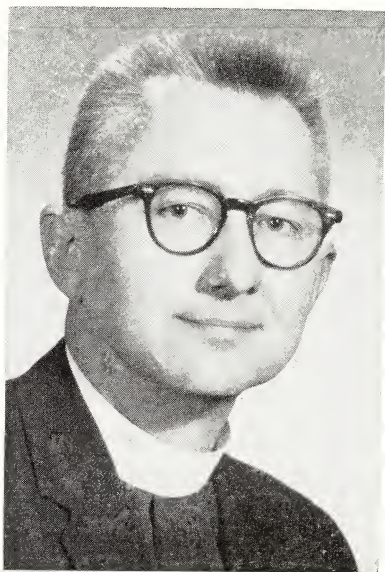
**MILTON WHITENER**  
1945-1947



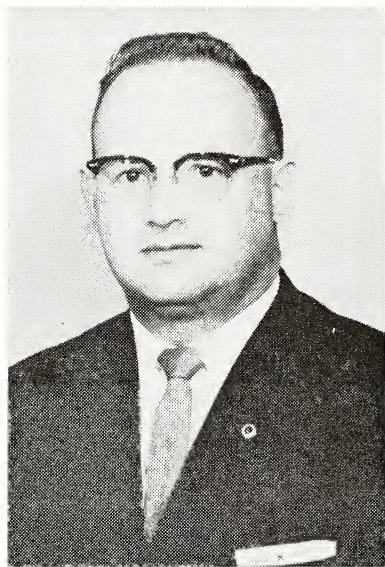
**LLOYD SECHRIEST**  
1951-1953



**JOHN C. CHATLOS**  
1953-1959



**ELMO D. BECK**  
1960-1962



CARL C. KREPS  
1963—



## RECORD OF GRAVES IN MT. HOPE CEMETERY

HARVEY CARITHERS  
Georgia  
Pvt. 122 Inf. 33 Div.  
July 23, 1937

JAMES W. HANCOCK  
North Carolina  
Pfc. 2 Cav Rcn Sq  
World War II  
Jan. 15, 1923  
May 4, 1945

Infant Son of C. M. and  
MYRTLE CHILDRESS  
April 28, 1932

RUBY B. Daughter of  
B. G. and Thelma Barbee  
Nov. 18, 1936  
Jan. 12, 1937

BENJAMIN G. BARBEE  
Aug. 22, 1925  
Feb. 27, 1947

MRS. ALICE WAGONER  
Died Feb. 17, 1948  
Age 55 years

M. J. SHUPING  
Oct. 29, 1855  
April 24, 1903  
and his wife

MELIA E. SHUPING  
Aug. 29, 1856  
June 23, 1937

JOHN HENRY ROSEMAN  
July 12, 1888  
April 13, 1962  
and his wife

BERTIE SHUPING ROSEMAN  
Feb. 23, 1891  
June 17, 1949

MARY J. PEACOCK, wife of  
L. A. Peacock  
Feb. 29, 1862  
Oct. 21, 1905

MARY E. SAFRIT, wife of  
A. M. Safrit  
Jan. 17, 1859  
May 10, 1899

Infant: Born and Died May 5, 1899  
(next to Mary E. Safrit)

ROSA P. GOODMAN  
Jan. 24, 1894  
Oct. 22, 1894

SUSIE G. CAUBLE, Daughter of  
W. F. and A. J. Cauble  
Nov. 19, 1913  
July 25, 1914

AVIE AND EVIE CAUBLE (twins)  
Daughters of W. F. and A. J. Cauble  
June 26, 1917  
Oct. 18, 1917

ED WILSON CAUBLE  
Nov. 29, 1912  
Jan. 6, 1933

RUTH LEE BEAVER  
1918-1959

ELI HONBARGER  
Sept. 30, 1828  
Aug. 22, 1912

LOU HONBARGER  
June 20, 1865  
Nov. 27, 1924

ELCY M. PEACOCK  
Died Feb. 1, 1897

MARY W. PEACOCK  
Died Feb. 13, 1897  
Daughters of L. A. and M. J. Peacock

THEODORE A. P. ROSEMAN  
Sept. 22, 1844  
June 9, 1916  
and his wife

MILLIE E. BESCHERER  
July 13, 1855  
March 25, 1937

FLORA E. E. ROSEMAN  
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David  
Roseman  
Sept. 25, 1842  
June 28, 1923

LAURA C. ROSEMAN  
Wife of J. A. Roseman  
Nov. 2, 1858  
Oct. 7, 1928

J. A. ROSEMAN  
March 2, 1857  
Sept. 16, 1941

CHARLIE THEODORE ROSEMAN  
March 16, 1893  
Dec. 9, 1956

REBECCA C. RYMER  
Wife of David H. Rymer  
August 31, 1833  
Jan. 1, 1914

DAVID ROSEMAN  
April 5, 1811  
Oct. 12, 1892

ELIZA M. ROSEMAN  
Wife of D. Roseman  
Oct. 12, 1821  
March 15, 1903

LYDIA A. STIREWALT  
Died March 16, 1898  
Age 63 yrs. 1 month, 9 days

HENRY PLESS  
March 5, 1806  
Jan. 11, 1891

SARAH PLESS  
Wife of H. Pless  
Aug. 2, 1812  
Oct. 17, 1885

FRANCES R. PROPST  
March 16, 1867  
Oct. 9, 1877

VALENTINE PROPST  
Aug. 18, 1824  
Aug. 10, 1901

H. LAVINA PROBST  
 Wife of V. Propst  
 Jan. 8, 1834  
 Sept. 16, 1910  
 EVA FAY LINKER  
 Daughter of J. C. and Belle Linker  
 July 3, 1920  
 March 21, 1921  
 CHRISTY ESTER BEAVER  
 Jan. 15, 1902  
 May 3, 1942  
 CHARLOTTE B. BEAVER  
 May 26, 1876  
 April 22, 1959  
 WILLIAM E. BEAVER  
 March 6, 1863  
 Nov. 8, 1934  
 GLADYS VIVIAN BEAVER  
 Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. E.  
 Beaver  
 May 21, 1918  
 March 1, 1920  
 MILLARD C. LINKER  
 Son of J. C. and Belle Linker  
 July 28, 1911  
 May 29, 1913  
 WAYMETH R. LINKER  
 Son of J. C. and Belle Linker  
 July 2, 1905  
 March 25, 1906  
 JESSE C. LINKER  
 June 3, 1882  
 June 16, 1955  
 H. J. PLESS  
 April 27, 1841  
 July 15, 1910  
 MARY E. S. PLESS  
 Wife of H. J. Pless  
 March 7, 1845  
 July 9, 1902  
 MINNIE A. PLESS  
 Daughter of H. J. and M. E. S Pless  
 Sept. 8, 1866  
 June 21, 1902  
 LIZZIE M. CASTOR  
 Daughter of J. A. and B. S. Castor  
 Aug. 20, 1900  
 June 7, 1902  
 Infant daughter of  
 G. H. and B. L. Pless  
 March 30, 1898  
 April 7, 1898  
 ALLISON H. PLESS  
 Son of H. J. and M. E. S. Pless  
 Oct. 12, 1875  
 Sept. 12, 1877  
 MARCUS R. PLESS  
 Son of H. J. and M. E. S. Pless  
 Jan. 10, 1873  
 Sept. 8, 1877  
 ELLEN K. BEAVER  
 Nov. 27, 1896  
 Aug. 18, 1897  
 WILMA B. BEAVER  
 Dec. 26, 1883  
 Jan. 8, 1884  
 SARAH ELLEN BEAVER  
 July 27, 1858  
 March 5, 1899  
 CHRISTINA R. YOST  
 Wife of Martin Yost  
 May 8, 1819  
 Dec. 1, 1888  
 MARTIN YOST  
 June 4, 1815  
 Feb. 1, 1889  
 SAMUEL A. FUNDERBURK  
 Oct. 30, 1882  
 Aug. 16, 1959  
 Infant son of  
 S. A. and M. W. Funderburk  
 Nov. 6, 1907  
 Dec. 6, 1907  
 Infant daughter of  
 S. A. and M. W. Funderburk  
 Dec. 31, 1911  
 Jan. 7, 1912  
 JACOB LINGLE  
 May 14, 1795  
 Jan. 31, 1882  
 JOHN W. PLESS  
 Oct. 1, 1868  
 May 21, 1910  
 ANNIE ROSEMAN  
 Wife of John Pless  
 Later wife of W. F. Cauble  
 Sept. 8, 1884  
 April 1, 1940  
 DAVID B. CROOKS  
 Sept. 25, 1877  
 June 12, 1899  
 GEORGE W. CROOKS  
 June 26, 1891  
 March 30, 1893  
 Infant son of  
 Rev. and Mrs. R. F. Crooks  
 March 25, 1893  
 DIANA LYNN CASPER  
 March 29, 1954  
 Oct. 21, 1961  
 MARTIN LUTHER CASPER  
 Oct. 28, 1892  
 Jan. 6, 1961  
 DAISY L. B. BOST  
 Feb. 1, 1884  
 Feb. 8, 1904  
 MARY J. GOODNIGHT  
 April 10, 1891  
 June 10, 1943  
 Wives of Willie Casper  
 G. D. W. CASPER  
 Son of Willie Casper  
 Feb. 1, 1904  
 July 14, 1904  
 Son and daughter of  
 Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Beaver  
 April 5, 1926  
 Aug. 30, 1927  
 CAROLYN FAYE WEAVER  
 Infant daughter of  
 Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Weaver  
 July 7, 1941

WILLIAM MARVIN BEAVER

April 6, 1906

May 17, 1963

HELBERT LEE BEAVER

1908-1960

PEGGY CAROLYN BEAVER

Sept. 13, 1928

July 29, 1930

GEORGE H. RITCHIE

Jan. 6, 1818

April 27, 1904

MARGARET S. RITCHIE

Wife of G. H. Ritchie

Died Feb. 14, 1897

Age 60 years

HENDERSON A. STIREWALT

Dec. 26, 1857

July 21, 1934

and his wife

JULIA ANN F. STIREWALT

Oct. 18, 1855

March 8, 1929

MILO T. ROSEMAN

Feb. 18, 1855

April 28, 1931

and his wife

JANE R. EDDLEMAN ROSEMAN

Feb. 15, 1858

Oct. 30, 1947

LINDSEY L. ROSEMAN

North Carolina

Pvt., 143 Inf., World War II

April 26, 1923

Jan. 22, 1944

JEFFERSON ANDREW ROSEMAN

Son of H. C. and Annie Roseman

Nov. 8, 1917

April 24, 1918

DELMUS C. ROSEMAN

Son of H. C. and Annie Roseman

April 3, 1914

Oct. 26, 1914

EARL EDWARD TRAMMELL

Son of Fred and Veda Trammell

July 27, 1952

July 31, 1952

EVERETT L. ATWELL, JR.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Atwell

June 28, 1950

JOHN A. CASTOR

Oct. 3, 1868

Dec. 12, 1945

and his wife

BERTHA STIREWALT CASTOR

Nov. 28, 1877

Oct. 21, 1938

CALVIN H. PLESS

Feb. 10, 1878

Sept. 5, 1939

and his wife

SALLIE S. PLESS

March 29, 1878

Dec. 9, 1944

WILLIAM J. BEAVER

July 6, 1883

Jan. 26, 1940

and his wife

LULA P. STIREWALT BEAVER

Sept. 3, 1892

Oct. 30, 1949

CALVIN L. HONEYCUTT

North Carolina

Pfc. Co. C, 216 Engineer C BN.

World War II

Sept. 8, 1924

Feb. 16, 1962

PVT. HAROLD B. WEAVER

Killed in Bergstein, Germany

Son of Martin and Maggie Weaver

June 6, 1923

Feb. 7, 1945

MAGGIE CASPER

Wife of M. R. Weaver

May 7, 1889

Nov. 1, 1947

JACKIE WAYNE WEAVER

Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Weaver

Oct. 14, 1950

Dec. 30, 1950

VARD T. VANDERFORD

Jan. 7, 1890

Dec. 7, 1951

and his wife

DICIE K. VANDERFORD

April 13, 1895

Dec. 29, 1947

MAGGIE LOU STIREWALT

March 5, 1890

Sept. 20, 1930

WILLIAM A. CASPER

March 18, 1879

April 2, 1943

ADA J. CASPER

March 2, 1882

Dec. 11, 1948

GEORGE M. SHUPING

Aug. 30, 1884

Feb. 27, 1950

JUDY FAYE BEAVER

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Beaver

April 12, 1951

October 18, 1951

Infant son of

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Horton

March 1, 1961

ARTHUR J. RYMER

April 5, 1890

Dec. 3, 1964

MAY S.

Daughter of G. H. and B. L. Pless

May 7, 1899

Nov. 12, 1903

GRACE U.

Daughter of G. H. and B. L. Pless

Aug. 26, 1901

Oct. 27, 1903

**The following are buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery, but there are no markers:**

2 infant children

Feb. 4, 1917

Jan. 24, 1919

Sons of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Rodgers

MRS. MARGARET M. LINGLE

Wife of Julius A. Castor

Died 1883

*If anyone would know of others buried in the cemetery that are unmarked, we would appreciate this information.*



## **SOURCES USED IN PREPARING THIS HISTORY**

### **BOOKS CONSULTED**

- "Historic Sketch of the Reformed Church in North Carolina"  
by J. C. Clapp, Editor. 1908
- "History of the Southern Synod — Evangelical And Reformed Church"  
by Dr. J. C. Leonard. 1940
- "History of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and Ministerium of North Carolina"  
by G. D. Bernheim and George H. Cox, DD. 1902
- "History of the Lutheran Church in North Carolina"  
by Jacob L. Morgan, Editor. 1953
- "History of Rowan County"  
by Jethro Rumble. 1881
- "History of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church"  
by Mrs. W. H. Canup. 1964
- "Historic Manual of the Reformed Church"  
by Joseph H. Dubbs, D.D. 1885
- "The Fathers of the Reformed Church"  
by Rev. H. Harbaugh and Rev. D. Y. Heisler, D.D. 1888  
(several volumes)
- The Diary of Rev. Samuel Rothrock  
1835 and years following,  
Rowan County Public Library, History Room
- The Diary of Rev. J. D. Andrew  
1925-1931  
In possession of Mrs. Ruth Best, Burlington, N. C.
- The Minutes of the Lutheran Synod of North Carolina  
1810-1850  
Lutheran Synod House, Salisbury, N. C.
- The Minutes of the North Carolina Classis of the Reformed Church  
1831-1915  
Catawba College Library, Salisbury, N. C.

## RECORDS CONSULTED

### "Names on Baptismal Records 1822-1884"

Grace Lower Stone United Church Of Christ, Rockwell, N. C.

Translated from the German by Rev. Milton Whitener 1948.

Examination of various other old records of Grace Lower Stone Church.

Examination of various old records of Mt. Hope United Church of Christ.

(Note: our earliest book is 1889. If anyone can help locate the first book of 1866 or anything pertaining to the earlier days of the "union church" please notify and return to Mt. Hope Church. This would be greatly appreciated.)

Examination of deeds, marriage licenses, wills, and census Records

Rowan County Court House, Salisbury, N. C.

Examination of various papers and personal effects of Mr. Jacob Lingle in possession of Mt. Hope Church.

Assorted bulletins of Sunday Worship Services of Mt. Hope Church.

Assorted issues of "The Standard" official publication of Southern Synod.

"The Old North State" Salisbury newspaper

May 9th and May 21st, 1866 issues and others

N. C. State Archives, Raleigh, N. C. Microfilm.

McCubbins File — various historical documents

Rowan County Public Library, History Room

Census Records — 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880

Rowan County Public Library, Microfilm

Rowan County Court House, original copy 1850 and 1860

---

*Appreciation is expressed to the following people for personal help and suggestions towards the writing of this history:*

Rev. Frank Snider

Historian of Southern Synod, United Church of Christ

Mr. Bernard Cruse

Member of N. C. Lutheran Synod Committee on History from Concord, N. C., who extended much time and effort in matters of research.

Miss Elizabeth Kieffer, Archivist

Archives of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, Franklin Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa.

Mr. Joe Frick

For photostats of various documents, Rowan County Court House

Mr. George Pless

Member of Mt. Hope Church, whose keen memory served to fill in many incidents in the life of the church.

Dr. Banks J. Peeler

President of Southern Synod, Evangelical and Reformed Church (United Church of Christ)  
For grateful assistance of his office and personal suggestions.

Mr. L. C. Lingle

from Arlington, Va.

For furnishing much personal history of the Lingle family of great value.

Mr. David A. Rendleman

Attorney, Salisbury, N. C.

For help in tracing names of early settlers of Rowan County, maps, and locating deeds.

The Centennial Committee

Much appreciation is extended to each one of the committee for the many meetings and hours spent in searching, evaluating, and tabulating information for this history.

Mr. Harold Bostian

Photo of church on cover, older members, Centennial Committee.



